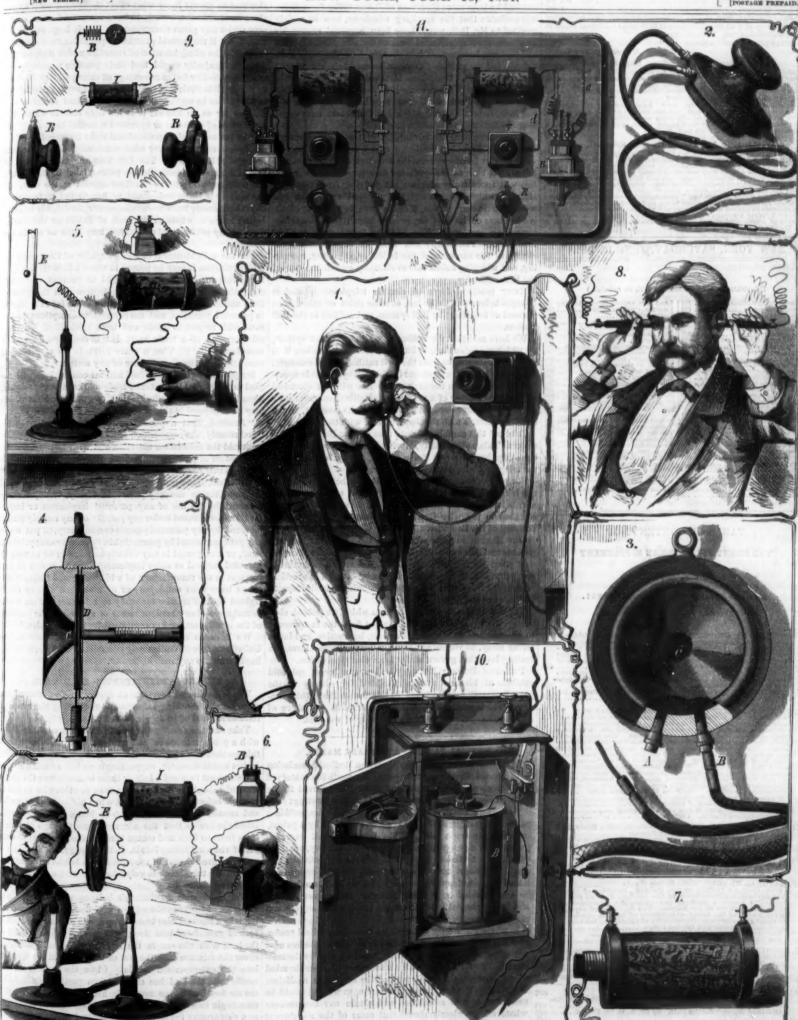


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PROFESSOR A. E. DOLBEAR'S NEW TELEPHONIC SYSTEM.

Fig. 1—The Dolbear receiver and transmitter in use. Figs. 2 and 3.—The new receiver. Fig. 4.—Section showing interior of receiver. Fig. 5.—Illustration showing electrical attraction and the electrification of a line wire by battery and induction coil. Fig. 6.—Epinus' condenser used as a telephonic receiver with Reiss' transmitter. Fig. 7.—Induction coil with removable primary coil. Fig. 8.—Transmission of sounds by an ordinary medical electrical machine. Fig. 9.—Prof. Dolbear's telephonic circuit. Fig. 10.—The Dolbear experimental transmitter. Fig. 11.—Prof. Dolbear's exhibit for the Paris Electrical Exhibition.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1881.

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A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

We illustrate this week a new and remarkable system of telephonic communication, which by its originality and efficiency promises to be of great value to the public. It embodies the discoveries of A. E. Dolbear, Professor of Physics, Tufts College, Massachusetts, whose interesting contributions to the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN during several past years have rendered his name familiar to our readers. His additions to the general stock of knowledge pertaining to the useful arts and sciences have been very extensive, and he ranks among the most prominent of American scientists. In the department of electricity his indefatigable researches have generally kept him in advance of his cotemporaries; and had he been more observant of Patent Office formalities, it is probable that the speaking telephone, now so widely credited to Mr. Bell, would have been garnered among his own laurels. Experimental philosophy and common-place business are, however, seldom conjoined in the same individual; and the professor's contest to establish his priority in the discovery of the magnetic telephone has not yet, in law, culminated in his favor. But the world is probably the gainer, for Professor Dolbear now brings forward a new and independent system, which has important advantages over the Bell and other telephonic methods,

Prominent among the advantages of the Dolbear system are its capability of transmitting speech over long lines of wire, and its freedom from the troubles of induction. It has not yet been fully ascertained how far the Dolbear system will successfully operate; but judging from the principles on which it works and the practical experience had with it on limited circuits, it seems capable of doing effective business on lines of far greater length than heretofore have been employed. The Dolbear telephone is a silent instrument. The words and voice of the speaker come clearly to the ear without the bubbling, crackling, sputtering, and whizzing noises that so seriously curtail the use of the Bell method.

Every practical form of electric telephone heretofore

brought before the public has, at some point or other, been claimed as touching the Bell system, and subject to the Bell patents.

We have said that the Dolbear is an independent system, by which we mean that, in its principles of operation, it is an absolute departure from the Bell method. For example:

In order to receive messages by the Bell system it is necessary to use, between the ear and the line wire, an electrical machine, consisting of a magnet, a metallic diaphragm near the magnet, a magneto-coil to influence the magnet, which coil is connected with the line wire and with the ground.

Take out this machine and we take out the Bell telephone system. This, substantially, is what Dolbear does. To receive a message he takes out the machine, and puts the end of the telegraph wire directly to the ear.

For convenience of ordinary use Mr. Dolbear provides the receiving end of his telegraph wire with a small handle, in which he arranges a couple of thin diaphragms, one of them attached to the wire-contrivances that improve the vocal delivery of the line wire.

Our illustrations are taken from the actual working apparatus and line as recently set up in the SCIENTIFIC AMERI-CAN office by Mr. Dolbear's able assistant and enthusiastic coadjutor, Mr. H. C. Buck, of Massachusetts. The practical working of this line in our office was admirable in all respects and gave us the utmost satisfaction.

The description of the new system which we publish elsewhere, written by Prof. Dolbear, apart from the instruments to which it relates, constitutes a clear, instructive, and interesting essay, in which are embraced, in concise form, the leading laws that govern all forms of electrical action.

Professor Dolbear has prepared a number of splendid exhibits of his new system, destined for display in the great International Electrical Exhibition at Paris, this summer. The invention will doubtless attract its full share of attention in that extraordinary assembly of wonders.

MEDICAL PATENTS AND TRADE MARKS.

At the recent meeting of the American Medical Association in Richmond, the report of the section on medicine contained the following curious resolution, which was referred to the Judicial Council for report at the next annual meeting:

"Resolved, That the spirit of the Code of Ethics forbids a physician from prescribing a remedy controlled by a patent, copyright, or trade mark. This, however, shall except a patent upon a process of manufacture or machinery, provided brand of manufacture, provided that the article so marked brick trimmed to fit. be accompanied by working formulæ, duly sworn to, and also by a technical, scientific name, under which any one can compete in manufacture of same."

It would manifestly be unfair to hold the medical profession of the United States responsible for the sentiments of a resolution not formally passed upon and adopted by the association. So far as appears the resolution expresses the mind presented to the association and obtain any countenance whatever, too clearly shows that some of the members at least are sadly in need of enlightenment with respect to the policy and ethics of patents, copyrights, and trade marks.

of patent rights, copyrights, and trade marks as thoroughgoing as his inacquaintance with the usages of English speech.

The wisdom of the general policy of refraining from prescribing any of the secret compounds miscalled "patent medicines, is beyond question. But that class of alleged remedies for disease is entirely without the scope of this resolution as it stands. A patented medicine cannot be of secret composition, since one of the prime conditions of granting letters patent is that the matter patented shall be fully and explicitly published to the world.

That a physician ought to know the ingredients of whatever he offers a patient goes without telling; it is desirable also that he should know what effect the several ingredients alone or combined are likely to have upon the human economy under any given circumstances; but it is gravely to be feared that if the general practice of physicians were strictly limited to the administration of remedies under such conditions the majority would find their practice amazingly restricted-possibly to the advantage of their patients. Be that as it may, it is obviously the physician's duty to administer to his patient in any instance the remedy best suited to the case, so far as he knows; it is his duty also to widen his knowledge of probable or approved remedies to the utmost; and he has no moral or professional right to accept or reject a proposed remedy for any other consideration than the best interests of his patient. The fact that the manufacture or sale of a remedy is controlled by patent, label, or trade mark has nothing to do with the medical aspects of the case. If the remedy is better calculated to benefit the patient than any other remedy known or available, the physician is morally bound to use it, whatever the Code of Ethics or the resolutions of any professional association may have to say in the premises.

For the enlightenment of the draughter of the resolution under criticism it may be proper to remark here (1) that it is impossible for a patent to be "used to prevent legitimate competition;" consequently the exception cuts the ground from under the first clause of the resolution so far as it relates to patented remedies, and the subsequent exceptions do the same with respect to labels and trade marks. (2) That the sole function of a trade mark is "to designate a brand of manufacture." (3) That a trade mark in no way hinders competition in the manufacture of any article.

Stripped of its errors of fact and misconceptions with regard to the purpose of patents, trade marks, and copyrights, there is left of the resolution but one possible idea, which may be expressed in this wise:

"Resolved, That a physician should not prescribe an alleged remedy, the composition of which he does not know." Should the association entertain and wish to express a disapprobation of patents, copyrights, and trade marks a resolution to that effect might take some such form as this:

"Resolved, That professional bigotry and prejudice forbid the physician to use any patented remedy, or any remedy obtained by the use of any patented implement or implements manufactured under any patent; or any remedy manufactured by any patented process or machinery, or put up in any package tainted by patent rights, or bearing a copyrighted label, or transported in any vehicle so tainted; or to use any patented surgical or other implement, or any device or implement in the manufacture of which patented tools or processes have been employed; or to make use of any copyrighted book or treatise for study or reference; or (in short) to make use of any modern means or methods in the practice of the healing art, or in preparation for such practice."

We have no fear that the associated physicians of the United States will deliberately commit themselves, even by implication, to any such absurdity.

TESTING ARGENTIFEROUS LEAD ORES.

The following will serve as an answer to a number of our correspondents asking information respecting the simplest reliable method of testing lead ores for silver:

Take out the front grate of an ordinary cooking stove with a good grate space and draught, and put in a piece of thin earthen drain pipe about nine inches in length and three inches inside diameter, supporting it on bits of brick so that it rests about two and a half or three inches above the grate. The tube should be heated in an oven or otherwise as hot as possible before setting it, so that when a fire is built under and around it, it will not snap or break into fragments. Build the fire so that the air may pass through the tube from front to back and escape through the fire without danger of the coals falling into it. Let the fire gradually increase patent be not used to prevent legitimate competition; and until the greater part of the tube is at a bright red heat, the shall also except use of a trade mark used to designate a front of the tube being loosely stopped with a piece of fire

Weigh out on an apothecary's balance about one-tenth of an ounce of the ore reduced to a very fine powder by grinding it in a mortar; also two separate lots of one-half ounce each of granulated lead free from silver. Mix one part of the lead with the ore in the bottom of a small scorifier; cover the mixture with the rest of the lead, put the scorifier into the extemporized muffle. Close the mouth of the of perhaps only a small part of the section in medicine; muffle until the lead has melted, then partly open it to let nevertheless the fact that a resolution so worded could be the air flow in. If the muffle is hot enough the lead will soon begin to scorify the liquefied litharge formed collecting as a ring around the sides of the vessel and gradually increasing in quantity until the whole surface of the melted metal is covered. It is well to add to the contents of the scorifier Certainly the man that draughted the resolution betrays a two or three pieces of borax glass (borax that has been degree of Ignorance of the function and practical working melted in acrucible and poured out on a plate of iron to cool)

the size of peas, if any of the gangue of the powdered ore small outlay. And what is true of Indiana would also be ness, so that it has now almost entirely disappeared from and absorbed by the litharge. As soon as the ring of slag closes over the metal remove the scorifier, let it get cold, then break it, and by pounding separate the slag from the

Put a dry bone-ash cupel, weighing about the same as the button of metal obtained from the scorification, in the muffle. let it get red hot, then drop in the clean button and close the muffle until the metal has liquefled, then open it partly.

Lead under such slags off into litharge, the latter carrying with it all base metals and impurities. It is absorbed almost as soon as formed (if the muffle is properly heated) into the porous bone-ash cupel. The button gradually decreases in size, and as it gets small it must be watched, so that when the last of the lead passes off into slag and the silver (if any is the surrounding country. present) "brightens" or assumes the luster and color of the pure metal, the cupel may be removed to avoid loss by volatilization. If the ore contained any silver a small bead of that metal will be found in the cupel; if none the cupel will be empty. Sometimes, in poor ores, the bead will be almost microscopic, so that the cupel must be carefully examined before setting it aside. Weigh the bead if found on a fine balance and multiply the weight in grains by 291,600, the result being grains of silver (with possibly a little gold) in a ton of the ore. Error may arise from the presence of silver in the test lead, so that it is always best to test it for that metal (by scorification and cupellation as above). If it is found to contain silver, and a purer sample cannot be readily procured, determine by duplicate tests as accurately as possible the amount present, and make proper allowance for this in calculating other assays in which the lead is used.

Good scorifiers and cupels can be obtained from any dealer in chemical apparatus, etc. In some instances a large French clay or even Hessian crucible with a bole knocked in the bottom can be made to serve as a good muffle for such tests instead of the clay pipe. In this case the side of the crucible becomes the bottom of the muffle, and if a little dry sand or bone-ash is spread over it, it can be made level enough to support the scorifier without tipping.

Under favorable conditions such tests can be made in an hour or an hour and a half.

RURAL DRAINAGE AND DISEASE.

BY H. C. HOVEY.

It has been estimated that more than half the deaths occurring in cities are due to preventable causes. The vital statistics of farming regions are not so easily obtained, but statements of responsible physicians, having each a large country prac tice, in widely separated portions of the United States, prove the importance of judicious sanitary measures in rural as well as municipal localities. One observes that "one-third of the autumnal sickness of this region might be prevented by systematic drainage of farm lands, without detriment to their agricultural value." Says another, "about fifty per cent of our sickness might be obviated by suitable sanitary precautions." All agree that a large proportion of the maladies coming under their notice are attributable to the insidious poison emanating from decomposing animal and vegetable matter.

The purest country air is less pure than is commonly supposed; a fact demonstrated to visitors of Mammoth Cave, who, on emerging after breathing for several hours the air of the cave, which is almost absolutely free from noxious gases, find the outer air laden with oppressive odors, and

depressing in its influence on the system.

Miasmatic exhalations arise from every swamp, and wayside pool, from the decaying forest leaves, and many other objects that are hardly thought of as prejudicial to good health. This particular form of the evil reaches its minimum in hilly regions, where the tilted strata supply natural drainage; while its maximum is found in such extensive areas as exist in Indiana, Illinois, and other portions of the West, where vast deposits of alluvial and lacustral soil cover nearly level sedimentary beds, allowing but very sluggish removal of marshy accumulations.

The cultivation of the surface soil, and the drainage made for agricultural purposes, have gradually redeemed large tracts of wet land in the regions mentioned; yet much remains to be done, and it is gratifying to see that steps are being taken by some of the States embracing prairies and hydrographical features of the country and the prevalence

of malaria and zymotic diseases.

namely, police power to enforce good health laws in rural but every suspected grass and weed proved h crooked streams, to increase the velocity of the current, dig- must lurk in the springs and brooks; but hundreds of samging canals to relieve wet lands from overflow, and doing ples were analyzed without detecting the presence of the other things that might cost a considerable sum of money, enemy. At last an investigation of the elay shales, soft but would add largely to the reputation of the State for rocks formed from ancient mud beds, and which are microsalubrity, and thus bring a rich reward.

of our largest and most populous interior States has lately appeared, full of facts as to the deficient sewerage of cities, and its almost utter neglect in smaller towns and villages, and in rural localities; also showing the inevitable connection between these causes and the prevalence of forms of lands adjacent to the shale beds dried them sufficiently to sickness that might be entirely avoided by a comparatively terminate the conditions favorable to the spread of milk sick- an examination of the rich mineral deposits of the valley.

remains floating on the top of the metal and is not slagged found to be true of other States similarly situated as to a regions that once were cursed by that plague. lack of natural drainage.

Look at the still more level State of Illinois, with its vast prairies and fertile bottoms. The sewage of all the cities is emptied into the adjacent streams, which have usually a sluggish flow, and it is bardly asked whither the recking mass is distributed.

Often this seems to be the only available mode of getting rid of it, all experiments looking toward other methods meeting with but slight success. It is to be hoped that some apparatus like the "garbage destructor and carbonizer" described in a late number of the Scientific American, will refuse without sending it down some stream to contaminate

About ten years ago the course of the Chicago River was artificially reversed, so that instead of running as it had done for ages into Lake Michigan it emptied itself and its accumulation of street filth and offal into the Illinois River, coursing completely across the State. The beneficial result to the city was very great; but for 150 miles down the Illinois River loud complaints were made of a marked increase of zymotic diseases, and a remarkable mortality among the fish in that stream seemed to prove that the water had been poisoned. The fact is worth noting, in passing, that the fish appeared to grow used to the changed condition of affairs; but during the past winter the ice bound water not being properly oxygenated for a long time, many fish died, while others in immense numbers congregated below the dam at Henry, where the constant agitation of the falling water would favor aeration. And at the same time there was an alarming prevalence of diphtheria at Peoria and other places

This illustration shows the importance of State regulation of general drainage, so that what is borne away as a nuisance from one locality shall not be cast as an offensive burden on another.

But suppose all to have been done that can be effected by public health organizations, much will remain to be accomplished by individual effort, in response to appeals to an enlightened instinct of self-preservation.

Many farmers, otherwise well informed, do not seem to realize the fact that gases arising from stables, pigpens, and out-houses may poison the pure country air as effectually as the atmosphere in cities may be spoiled for breathing by the same effluvia spreading from neglected alleys or cesspools. And the thrifty wives of farmers, who, forgetful of cleanliness, saturate the door yard with wash water and kitchen sewage through all the winter months, should be taught that when that ground sours and festers under the summer sun, the heat will ripen the germs of disease as surely as it will ripen the grain in the harvest field.

Maladies mysteriously affecting families residing in what are regarded as healthy localities, are often explainable on opening the cellar door, whence an intolerable odor of decaying vegetables proceeds; or on lifting a board in the kitchen floor, beneath which is a shallow pool of standing water; or on observing that the well is so situated as to drain into itself some of the substances that are thrown away as utterly unfit to be retained in proximity to human beings.

The latter point is one very frequently overlooked. For example, a certain Western city, finely located and attractive, gained the reputation of being an exceedingly unhealthy spot, and was of course much retarded in its prosperity by that fact. Finally it was noticed that underlying the city, at a depth of about twelve feet, is a stratum of impervious blue clay, above which lies an extensive quicksand, affording an abundant water supply by means of numerous wells, and into that same quicksand all the vaults and cesspools of the place were also dug, thus mixing their foul contents with the drinking water that every one used! The amount of sickness was materially diminished by the proper attention being given to this one point. Every careful farmer will see that the compost heap, and other refuse stored as food for the roots of grasses and vegetables, shall be at such a distance from the house and well as not to contaminate the air and the water essential to the preservation of life and health.

In closing, I may mention a curious illustration, given in a paper by Prof. E. T. Cox, on the "Influence of Geology on Local Diseases," showing what has actually been done by broad river bottoms, to investigate the relation between the rural drainage to eradicate a dreaded malady that used to prevail extensively in Kentucky and Indiana, known as milk sickness." because, first attacking cattle, it was com-State and local health commissions are instituted with municated to human beings through the milk, butter, and authority to collect vital and sanitary statistics, and to have beef of the infected animals. Many a brave pioneer lost his charge of public measures for removing the causes of disease life by this malady, which almost always proved fatal; and cipants being Drs. Raymond and Dudley. from all parts of the State; omitting, however, two very recovery was usually lingering and imperfect. At first it important links from the chain of a perfect organization; was supposed that the cattle had eaten some poisonous plant; statement with reference to the black band iron ores of West scopic in an eminent degree, revealed the secret. These The first annual report of the Health Commission of one formations abound in every infected locality, and it now seems clear that they exhale some sort of miasma, when saturated with water, that originated or aggravated the disease, just as other kinds of malaria bring on chills and fever. Proceeding on this discovery, thorough drainage of the wet

The opinion is now established that a large proportion of diseases are of germ origin; and the obvious mode of prevention is the destruction of the germs or their timely removal.

VACCINATION IN SMALLPOX.

Jenner's great discovery of vaccination for prevention of smallpox has not been wanting in opposition, and a few persons are still so stupid as to object to vaccination. These people, who refuse to be vaccinated themselves or allow their children to be, endanger not merely their own lives, but the lives of their neighbors. They furnish the fuel on be introduced into all large cities for the consumption of which the flames feed, and render epidemics of smallpox possible. If vaccination were universal it would be as difficult to get up a smallpox pestilence as it is to start a great fire in those cities where all the buildings are practically

While the efficacy of previous vaccination with good virus is well known to be a preventive, the uses of vaccination after the disease has been contracted are less understood. Some years ago a Virginia physician, Dr. Alban S. Payne, conceived the idea of vaccinating a smallpox patient with the kine-pock. It took at once. The next day he repeated the vaccination, and that also took effect. And what was the effect upon the smallpox of having another similar disease in the system at the same time? The eruption was less extensive, but few pustules appeared, no scars were left, and in a surprisingly short time (three or four days) the patient was able to be about the room. In hundreds of cases where the system of daily vaccination was practiced by Dr. Payne, the duration of the disease was shortened, and no deaths occurred. Why, one would ask, is not this simple precaution always taken, if by its means life may be saved, pitting prevented, and suffering diminished? We should be glad to hear from other practitioners who have tried the method above described.

Institute of Mining Engineers.

The American Institute of Mining Engineers met at Staunton, Va., May 30. The members present included President William Metcalf, of Pittsburg, Penn.; Dr. R. W. Raymond, of the School of Mines, Columbia College, New York; Dr. Thomas Egleston, of the School of Mines, New York; Dr. Dudley, chemist of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Professor P. Frazer, of Philadelphia; Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, of Montreal; J. A. and J. T. Burton, of Troy, N. Y.; W. P. Ward, of Savannah, Ga.; and F. S. Witherbee,

In his annual address President Metcalf spoke of the advance of science and its results, and of the education of engineers. Special stress was laid upon the continuous study of the higher mathematics and practical observation as means of self education and professional success. A paper by J. H. Mackintosh, on "The Electrolytic Determination of Copper," was read by Prof. Egleston, and discussed by several members. Dr. Frazer read a paper on "The New

Geological Map of Chester Co., Pa."

The opening paper of the second day was by Professor Egleston on "The Ore-Knob Copper Process," employed at the mines of the Ore-Knob Copper Company in North Carolina. The belief was expressed that a great amount of copper lay dormant in the South, which, if properly worked, would be as profitable as the lake copper. Major Hotchkiss, of Virginia, thanked Professor Egleston for drawing attention to the copper deposits of the South. Very few persons are aware of the great wealth in this mineral with which this State abounds. Forty years ago Richard Taylor made explorations and reported on this class of ore. The only difficulty in its development then was the lack of transportation facilities. That objection does not now exist, and this industry may be expected to be seen coming prominently to the front.

A paper prepared by F. H. Williams, of St. Louis, Mo., on A Volumetric Method of Estimating Manganese in Pig Iron and Steel," was read by the secretary. It was an adaptation of the known processes. In connection with it was presented a paper on "Manganese Determinations in Steel," prepared by William Kent, of Pittsburg, Pa. These papers were discussed by Drs. Drown, Sharpless, and Dudley. In reference to the subject of steel rails letiers were read from Richard Akerman, of Stockholm, Sweden, and C. P. Sandberg, of London, England. The latter showed a preference for the mechanical over the chemical tests of steel rails, though he recognized the full importance of both. Considerable discussion ensued upon this subject, the principal parti-

At the afternoon session Dr. Sharpless, of Boston, made a Virginia F. P. Dewey, of Tennes districts, and means to defray expenses of straightening entific examination. Then it was held that mineral poisons Hill Iron Ores." O. J. Heinerich, of Drifton, Pa., explained the practical working of the ammonia soda process, and Stuart M. Buck, of Virginia, read a paper "On the Hard Splint Coal of the Kanawha." After an explanation of the geology of the valley by Major Hotchkiss, the institute adjourned.

At the night session Professor Frazer, of Philadelphia, read a paper on "Observations on some of the Ores of the Upper James River." This was followed by Major Hotchkiss in a description of the topography and geology of the Vir-

The programme for June 1 was devoted to an excursion over the Shenandoah Valley road to the Luray Cavern, with

Luckhardt's Process of Photo-Engraving.

This process, which has been rightly called a "Columbus" egg," like so many others, owes its origin to chance. Being requested, at a few hours' notice, to draw a portrait for a circle of friends, I intended to use as a guide a photograph, the printing of which was, however, delayed. The idea then occurred to me to coat the negative, which was at hand, with yellow varnish, and to etch the portrait with the needle on that ground. As I wished to make a carica ture, the salient characteristics of the negative were retained as a foundation, the transparent parts etched out, and the clothing altered. In this way the photo-engraving was produced, the further use of which, I believe, is not to be undervalued. In view of the circumstance that the drawings and wood cuts of portraits which appear in the illustrated papers have frequently lost the likeness of persons whom they represent, and that notwithstanding they are costly and require a long time to produce, would it not be advisable to use engraved photographs instead, even when the original negative, taken from nature, is not to be had, but only a negative reproduced from it?

The yellow varnish-consisting of common negative varnish to which a suitable quantity of aniline yellow has been added until it has assumed a dark sherry color-may be graved very well for a few days; but the older the varnish film the more brittle it becomes, and, therefore, a few drops of castor oil are added to it to render it elastic. The action of light upon sensitive paper placed beneath the negative oyster soup. is effectually suspended by the yellow varnish, so that only the transparent lines, produced by the graver, print. When once the principal lines of the original picture have been faithfully laid down, even an untaught draughtsman may produce an engraving of the portrait that shall at least have some resemblance; while a draughtsman skilled in cross-hatching or a xylographer should furnish a work which, placed beside a good woodcut, should exhibit a superiority recognizable even by the unprofessional eye. Besides the rapidity with which the engraving can be made, the possibility of the utmost correctness is offered, since lines which have been too deeply graved or wrong lines may be filled up again with yellow varnish and engraved anew, a printing frame and silvered paper offering a convenient method of watching and controlling the progress of the work. Where broken lines are desired a pencil may be passed over them, and then they may be pricked and so on. By transfer paper an impression from an engraved, yellow varnished negative plate may be transferred to zinc, and in this way a plate suitable for printing with the letterpress printing press will be produced.

The portrait of Dr. Emil Hornig, the President of the Photographic Society of Vienna, issued with the current number of the Photographische Correspondenz, was engraved in about an hour, the faultless zinc clické being produced in a surprisingly short time, in the chemigraphic establishment of Herren Angerer and Goschel, so that in a single day a negative, the engraving, and the clické, ready for printing from, may all be produced with ease.

As I never before made a drawing for a woodcut nor engraved a portrait, I must add that I by no means consider the

attempt having attracted some attention in the Vienna Pho tographic Society, I was induced to prepare the present portrait for its organ. I hope the process may soon meet with extensive application at the hands of capable artists.—Frits

Luckhardt, in Photographische Correspondenz.

FEAST OF STRANGE FISH.

BY A. W. BOBERTS.

The second annual dinner of the Ichthyophagous Club, which was held on the evening of Friday, the 28th ult., was a complete success, not only as a social gathering, but for



Razor Clam.

the more important and practical object of developing hitherto neglected varieties of fish for human consumption.

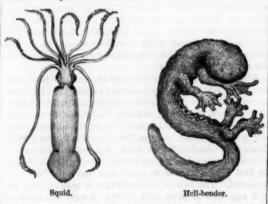
Among the company, which numbered nearly one hundred guests, were men distinguished in the world of arts, of letters, and of science, and not a few who are deeply versed in the mysteries of the ocean. The tables were ornamented with flowering plants, and designs composed of materials collected from the sea, the most noteworthy being a pyramid, twenty feet high, consisting of the empty shells of the horseshoe crabs, between which were introduced sharks' fins and sea robins' heads.



most striking of which I have figured) were served up during the evening as the choicest of viands. These various fries, broils, and salads, all more or less enjoyable. dishes of strange fish were partaken of with a relish, which, until the experiments of last year and this were made and proved successful, were considered valuable only for fertilizers or curiosities for aquaria.

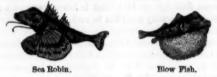
The consomme of moss-bunker was very palatable and entirely free of all oleaginousness.

The "Bisque of razor clams" was as delicate in flavor as



"Gray snapper a la Blackford" was another equally palatable dish. Although the gray snapper is not equal in flavor to the red snapper, there is no reason why it should be neglected by our fishermen, as it generally is, as a marketable fish.

"Horseshoe crabs a la diable" were served from dishes composed of the empty shells of the horseshoe or king



The flesh of this crab was found to be coarser and crab. more stringy than that of the ordinary crab, and the flavor more pungent, but not sufficiently so as to make it unpala-

"Drumfish a la Cope" was very suggestive of sheepshead. The drum fish is never to be found in our markets,



Lophius a la Beard

portrait of my honored friend as a work of art; but my first and in the severest sense is looked upon as an "evil" fish by the fisherman, it being one of the greatest enemies to the

> "Saute of shark, Chinese style," was not very successful, as the portion that I partook of left a disagreeable taste in



Spider Crab

the mouth, though others declared it equal to halibut steak;

perhaps I got the evil part of the beast.
"Squid a la Starin." Without exception the squid is one of the most repulsive-looking animals of our coast, and yet



While the gathering was naturally social in its character, from it was produced a black colored and gelatinous soup, certain fishes which have been considered the very refuse of creature, was very pleasant to the taste. Next on the menu arranged on journals of cross piece.

the ocean. Strange and repulsive-looking creatures (the came hell-benders, sea robins, "Lophius a la Beard," and blow fish, with sea-lettuce salad, from which were produced



On last year's menu were spider crabs, gar fish, skate, and sea cucumber, of which strange looking creatures some idea can be formed by the accompanying illustrations.

In some future number detailed accounts of the habits and uses of many of these fish will be given.

The New England Exhibition.

The New England Manufacturers and Mechanics Institute are making a special effort to secure this year an adequately representative exhibit of the products of New England industry and skill. The Exhibition building, now nearing completion, is the largest building in New England, covering five acres of ground and offering over eight acres of flooring available for exhibition purposes. It is situated in Boston, on a spur track of the Boston and Providence Rail-

Space has already been assigned to a considerable number of prominent industries. The exhibit of the boot and shoe trade is expected to be more extensive and complete than has ever been made before. It will comprise a model factory with 129 distinct machines in operation.

The office of the Institute is at No. 5 Pemberton Square,

Prof. Carhart's Lecture.

In the notice of Prof. Carhart's recent lecture before the New York Electrical Society it was incorrectly stated that the Crookes experiments had not before been publicly repeated in this country. The same lecture, with illustrated experiments, was given by Prof. Carhart before the Chicago Electrical Society, last winter, January 24.

Carlyle and His Dyspepsia.

In his "Reminiscences," Carlyle tells how he once rode sixty miles to Edinburgh, "to consult a doctor, having at last reduced my complexities to a single question. Is this disease curable by medicine? or is it chronic, incurable except by regimen, if even so? This question I earnestly put; got response: 'It is all tobacco, sir; give up tobacco.' Gave it instantly and strictly up. Found, after long months, that I might as well have ridden sixty miles in the opposite direction, and poured my sorrows into the long, hairy ear of the first jackass I came upon, as into this select medical man's, whose name I will not mention."

Discolored Brick Walls.

The white saline substance that "comes out" upon brick walls, and which has been a source of annoyance to a great many, may, according to the American Architect, be remedied. In reply to a query on the subject, it says: The saltpetring" of brickwork can generally be prevented by adding oil to the mortar, at the rate of a gallon to the cask of lime. If cement is used in the mortar, an additional gallon of oil must be allowed for each cask of cement. Linseed oil is generally employed, but any kind which does not contain salt will answer. The incrustation, once formed, can be removed with hot water, or by the muriatic acid generally used for cleaning down brickwork, but it will reappear again by exudation from the interior of the wall, and usually leaves a permanent black or brown stain.

Another Large Casting.

The large iron bed plate for the Fall River steamer Puritan, cast at the foundry of John Roach & Son, in this city, May 17, will be, when trimmed and completed, 21 feet 9 inches long, 12 feet 6 inches wide, and 31/4 inches thick. The mould was 37 feet long, 14 feet wide, and required 2,000 feet of timber for the frame. It was roofed with brick.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

An improved corn sheller with which an ear of corn can be shelled very rapidly and perfectly without crushing or bruising the kernels and without any great exertion of power on the part of the operator, has been patented by Mr. Charles F. Shaw, of Boston, Mass. It consists of two semi-annular sections, each provided with an arm, the arms being pivoted to each other at the outer ends, so that the sections can be swung open or closed. These sections each have a series of teeth, all tapering toward the same point, fastened to the inner sides, so that an ear of corn is passed in between the semi-annular sections, and the latter are held tightly while the ear is being rotated to and fro. The teeth will tear the kernels from the cob.

An improved butter worker has been patented by Mr. John McAnespey, of Philadelphia, Pa. The invention consists in a body having rim and boss, a shaft passing through the body and connected by a gear with a hand crank shaft, a cross piece provided with a median square hole fitthe practical result accomplished was the utilizing for food of which, if you could forget the disgusting form of the ting a squared part of the body shaft, and beveled rolls

The Operation of Arsenie.

Arsenic has been long and generally in use as poison and as cure, yet no satisfactory explanation has been offered for its varied effects. Almost every part of the system is subject to its blighting or healing influence; it produces no sensible effect at the place where it is received into the system; small quantities produce poisonous effects, accumulating till the fatal point is reached, while larger does taken for long periods produce a coveted freshness.

Liebig refers these effects to the readiness with which it enters into combinations with the organic matters and to its power of preserving them from decay. If they do not decay it is because they have lost that essential character of living matter, the power of undergoing transformation; hence as parts or whole they are dead.

But the preserving effect of arsenic upon corpses seems to be rather traditional and to lack sufficient foundation. Attention has not been paid in the cases recorded to the nature of the soil, and the condition of other bodies buried near

Two German investigators ascribe arsenical effects to the activity of oxygen atoms in connection with arsenic. The corrosive power of common iron rust is well known. The iron oxide gives off an atom of oxygen, which being in the nascent state acts vigorously upon the organic matter with which it may be in contact. But another atom of oxygen combines with the iron and is again imparted to the organic matter, this process being constantly repeated with destruc-

The same play of give and take occurs with the arsenic. Arsenic acid loses an atom of oxygen and becomes arsenious acid; the latter takes an atom and becomes arsenic acid again. If either acid be injected into the intestines the other is soon found to be present.

These changes, it is believed, give sufficient basis for the natural explanation of all the medical effects of arsenic.

DOUBLE TONGUE FOR HARVESTERS.

The improvements which have been made in harvesting machines, in the past few years, have made them so nearly perfect that there seems to be no room for further improvement as to their working, but so much has been added to their weight that now the great difficulty with farmers occupying somewhat hilly land is to apply team enough to do the harvest work quickly. It is impracticable to drive far by a stop pin. The upper and inner corners of these one pair of horses before another, as in the old reapers, because the driver's seat is so far at the rear end of the machine that he cannot reach his leaders, and has no control over them, and serious accidents happen from this cause. It is the practice of some to have a boy ride one of the leaders, while the man who manages the machine drives the rear team; but this is found to be very unsatisfactory. Others drive three horses abreast, having a relay in the field, and changing every two or three hours.

Mr. John J. Kepner, of Little Valley, Minn., having tried these several ways, and finding them all unsatisfactory, was

illustrated by the engraving; and having again used the same device, improved, through the entire harvest of 1880, claims that, with this harvester double tongue, any one who is capable of driving two horses can drive four, and have them under perfect control, and do as much or more work, and do it with more ease to man and team, than can be done in any

When the land is so level that three horses can handle an ordinary harvester, by using this device the capacity of each machine can be increased one-third, by simply adding to the length of the cutter bar. By removing one nut, and laying aside the movable tongue and four-horse evener, the machine can be used as a two or three horse machine. The side draught can be so regulated that the machine follows the team freely, like a wagon, or it can and should be adjusted so that it hugs the standing grain closely, so as to always cut a full swath.

The ordinary tongue, A, is connected with the harvester in the usual manner, and to it, at a little distance from its rear end, is attached the end of the crossbar, C. The connection between the tongue, A, and the crossbar, C, is strengthened by the inclined braces, G. The end of the rear or long brace is attached to the tongue, A, near its rear end. The other end of the brace is attached to the outer end of the crossbar, C. The end of the forward or short brace is attached to the tongue,

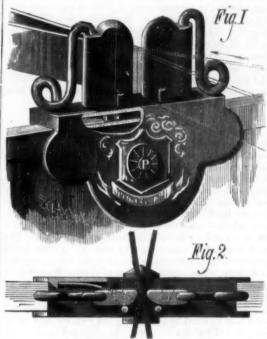
A, about midway between the ends of the crossbar, C, and from the tongue, A, as the draught of the harvester may require, is pivoted the four-horse evener, D, by a bolt, strengthened by a hammer strap, H The rear end of the hammer strap, H, is hinged to the hound of the tongue, A. The four-horse evener, D, is provided at each end with a two-horse evener, E, which is provided with single trees, F. in the ordinary manner. The rear end of the second tongue, B, is connected with the outer end of the crossbar, C, by

tongues should be so connected that they cannot be forced apart by the side pressure of the horses in guiding and turn-

For further information address the inventor and patentee

NOVEL REIN HOLDER.

The engraving shows an improved rein holder patented by Mr. Jonathan S. Pitcher, of San Diego, Cal., and de-



PITCHER'S REIN HOLDER.

signed for attachment to the dashboard or any other convenient part of the vehicle. It consists of two posts attached to a supporting plate, and each carrying a cam, which is pressed forward by a spring and prevented from moving too cams are rounded so as to permit of readily inserting the reins between them. The plate supporting the cams will generally be made double so as to clasp both sides of the dashboard, but a single plate may be used in some cases where it becomes necessary to attach the device to some support other than the dashboard. The reins are inserted in the holder by drawing them rearward between the cams and then releasing them. Any attempt to draw the reins forward will result in rendering them more secure. By pulling

The device will work well if one of the cams is omitted, led, in the harvest of 1879, to try driving four horses abreast, as but the inventor prefers the double arrangement of cams.

B

The advantage of this holder over the usual method of Pittsburg, Pa. The invention relates to a process and appathe longer brace. To the crossbar, C, about eighteen inches holding the reins will be readily understood and appreciated ratus for steaming and heating grain and feeding it to the by those who drive, either constantly or occasionally.

For further information address Mr. W. L. Williams, San Diego, Cal.

Amyl Nitrate for Ague.

Dr. Saunders, of Indore, India, reports in the Indian the end of the brace, G, to the end of the crossbar, C. With ment. He mixed the drug with an equal part of oil of corian- form work in the external circuits only.

this construction it is necessary that the forward ends of the der to make it less volatile and to cover its odor, and administers as follows: Four drops of the mixture, or two of amyl, are poured on a small piece of lint, which is given into the hands of the patient for him to inhale freely; he soon becomes flushed, and both his pulse and respiration are much accelerated, and, when he feels warm all over, the inhalation is discontinued, as the symptoms continue to increase for ome time afterward; a profuse perspiration now sets in, which speedily ends the attack, though in some cases the cold stage merely passes off without any hot or sweating stage.

American Society of Civil Engineers.

The thirteenth annual convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers will begin in Montreal, June 15. Arrange ments have been made to have such of the members as desire to do so meet at Niagara Falls, on Saturday, June 11, and examine the new suspended structure of the railroad suspension bridge and the re-enforcement of its anchorage. A paper on this subject will be presented at the convention by L. L. Buck, Member A. S. C. E., the engineer in charge of

After spending Sunday at Niagara the party will proceed to Toronto, and after a short stay at that city, will go to Montreal by a steamer, on Lake Ontario, passing on Tuesday the Thousand Islands and the Rapids of the St. Lawrence, and arriving at Montreal the evening before the day of the opening of the convention.

The following papers are announced for presentation during the convention: "Re-enforcement of the Anchorage and Renewal of the Suspended Structure of the Niagara Railroad Suspension Bridge," L. L. Buck; "The Stability of Tunnels in River Silt," Ashbel Welch; "Repairs of Masonry," O. Chanute; "Experiments upon Strength of Wrought Iron Columns," T. C. Clarke; "On Weights and Measures," Charles Latimer; "Comparative Economy of Light and Heavy Rails," Ashbel Welch.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

An improvement in gates has been patented by Mr. Alfonzo P. Campton, of Rohnerville, Cal. The object of this invention is so to construct a gate and its attachments that it can readily be opened by a person approaching on horseback or in a vehicle.

An improved dynamo-electric machine which is adapted for use for various purposes, and particularly for electroplating and analogous arts, has been patented by Mr. Hans J. Müller, of New York city. The invention is an improvement in the class of machines in which a series of armature coils are attached to a shaft rotated by power suitably ap plied, so that they rotate between fixed and opposing field magnets, and thereby generate the current. The invention consists in combining a relay and a resistance with a series of rotating armatures and fixed field magnets, whereby the reverse or secondary current (originating in the bath of plating solution) is caused to pass through the magnets in the same direction as the main current. The relay regulates the permanent charge of the machine.

A braceiet, combining strength and flexibility, capable

of easy adjustment to the arm, and incapable of becoming accidentally unclasped, has been patented by Messrs. Leon P. Jeanne, of New York city, and Paul Jeanne, of Greenville, N. J. The bracelet is made of a narrow thin strip of metal wound closely and spirally about a chain and provided with a novel device for adjusting and fastening the brace-

An improvement in that class of rocking chairs in which the seat and back rock upon a platform against the tension of a spring, has been patented by Mr. William E. Buser, of Chillicothe, Ohio.

An improved hame loop has been patented by Mr. Alpheus Arter, of New Lisbon, Ohio. The object of this invention is to furnish a convenient means for adjusting the strap by which two hames are connected together at the top.

An improved convertible value has been patented by Mr. Mahlon Loomis, of Washington, D. C. The object of this invention is to provide for use of travelers an improved form of valise which shall not only be adapted for containing apparel, toilet articles, etc., like an ordinary valise or traveling bag, but also for suspension vertically from the back of a car seat or other support within folding panels or shelves, may be lowered for use in taking lunch, or playing games, etc.

An improved wheat steamer and drier has been patented by Mr. Cyrus T. Hanna, of

grinding stones hot, so that it may be ground while hot, so that a better article of flour may be produced.

Mr. Hans J. Müller, of New York city, has patented an improved dynamo-electric machine. The object of this invention is to provide a new and improved dynamo-electric machine, which is so constructed that a series of separate and Medical Gazette a number of cases of ague successfully treated independent currents can be produced, of which one is used with nitrate of amyl. He asserts that in every instance the to excite the field magnets and at the same time perform interlocked eyebolts, the upper eyebolt serving also to secure disease yielded quickly and permanently to the amyl treat work in the external circuits, while the other currents per-

A NEW SYSTEM OF TELEPHONY.

BY A. E. DOLBEAR.

That rubbing a piece of amber will endow it with the property of attracting other bodies has been known from remote times, and it is probable that this phenomenon was the only electrical one known until comparatively recent times. Sulphur, wax, glass, and a few other substances were found to possess the same quality, and latterly it has been discovered that every substance whatever when subjected to friction from a different kind of substance than itself is capable of attracting light bodies in the same way as amber and as glass. The difference is one of degree only.

Another phenomenon due to the electrical excitement of bodies by friction is, they attract each other stronger than they attract other bodies, while each of the excited substances will repel a similar body excited in the same way.

But there are other ways of generating electricity that are familiar enough nowadays; for example, the galvanic battery; but this does not exhibit the attractive property of the piece of rubbed glass in a way that is apprectable by ordinary means. A well excited piece of glass will make a pith ball to move toward it from a distance of a foot or more. But let the pith ball be brought very near to any part of a battery or a wire attached to a battery, and no appreciable motion will take place. If, however, the wires connecting the terminals of the battery be wound into a helix that incloses a piece of iron, the latter will be made a magnet by the current of electricity in the wire, and this magnet will attract other bodies.

A very strong magnet will attract any body whatever, even a pith ball or a piece of hard rubber, but the strongest electro magnet hitherto made will not attract such a substance to itself from a distance of half an inch. The attractive property manifested by the iron is called magnetism, and the corresponding property of the glass that has been subject to friction is called electrical attraction.

While it is true that a current of electricity in the wire conductor of a battery is capable of developing an attractive property in the iron, it is also true that the terminal wires of the battery, when they are not connected, manifest an electrical attraction, for if they be properly connected to a sensitive electrometer the latter will show them to be electrified. one positively, the other negatively; and in order to understand better what is subsequently stated, it will be best to dwell a little while upon this phenomenon.

It has been stated above that all substances may be rendered electrical by friction, but for conductors of electricity like the metals friction is not essential; it is only necessary to touch one metal to another or to a fluid, like water, when one will be found positive and the other negative. Thus if a piece of copper is touched to a piece of zinc, the copper will be found to be positively electrified and the zinc negatively; if the copper is touched to water the latter will be positive and the copper negative; while if the zinc be touched to the water the latter will still be positive, but the zinc will be more negative than the copper was. Now these differences of electrical condition are called differences of potential, and difference of potential is electromotive force, or the condition which results either in electrical attraction or in a current of electricity in a suitable conductor. A great number of facts lead one to the belief that whenever two different substances are placed in contact there an electromotive force is developed, electricity is generated; and the probable explanation of this is that the atomic and molecular motions of two differently constituted bodies cannot be exactly alike. that is, they cannot be taking place at the same rate in both bodies. The molecules of a dense body cannot be moving as fast as those of a less dense body, and when these differently moving molecules are placed in contact with each other there must be some rearrangement of their motions at the points of contact, and the readjustment is quickly distributed by reaction throughout the whole body if it be what is called a good conductor, and more slowly in a poor conductor, but after such distribution there is no further action, unless some means is provided for maintaining fresh surfaces of contact. In the galvanic battery this is effected by the gradual solution of the zinc, by which the surface molecules are removed, thus presenting a fresh surface for renewal of the original conditions. As the electrity thus generated tends to go from the element with the higher potential to the lower one there will be what is called a current through any conductor that connects them so long as the solution of the zinc goes on, but break the wire that connects the two metals and the current will stop, and the ends of the wires will be found to be electrified, one positively, the other negatively.

But electricity may be generated in other ways still, and the method discovered by Henry more than forty years ago in an air condenser.* is second to none in scientific interest as well as practical It is this: that whenever a current of electricity in a conductor is started or stopped, or in any way varied, another current will be generated in an adjacent conductor, but it will have a direction opposite to that of the originating current. This is the foundation of what is now called inductive coils or inductoriums. These consist of two coils of wire, one with only a few turns of larger insulated wire wound over a bundle of iron wires, the other coil being wound outside of the first or primary coil, and consisting of a great many turns of very fine wire. The primary coil may be connected to a battery, as in Fig. 5, first page, while the terminals of the secondary coil are generally made fast to some hard rubber mounting, as in Fig. 7. When a current of electricity is permitted to traverse the primary coil the induced electromotive force in the secondary coil raises one terminal to a

them the needle will be deflected by the current. Indeed it is not necessary to have the wire terminals quite touch each other, for if the electromotive force be great enough a spark will pass from one to the other, the spark being a part of a transient current, and consisting of some of the material of the terminal that has been torn off, and is transferred to the other terminal because it is electrified positively, and is, therefore, attracted by the other terminal, which is negatively electrified. That the terminals are electrified at such times may be proved by bringing a pith ball suspended by a thread near to one of them, or attaching one of the brass disks ot an Epinus's condenser by a wire to the terminal, as E in Fig. 5. Each make and break of the battery current will make the pith ball move toward the disk. This principle of the attractive power of an electrified body for other bodies is the basis of the new speaking telephone about to be described.

THE RECEIVER

This consists, in its simplest form, of two metallic disks about two inches in diameter, so mounted as not to be in metallic contact, and this is effected by turning a flange in a hard rubber case so they may be kept apart by it (see Fig. 4). A cap is screwed down upon each plate, one of them having a small hole in the middle of it to listen at; the other is a larger one, having a knob turned upon it for conveniently holding it in the hand. Through the middle of the knob a screw is sunk which touches the back plate and serves to adjust it to the best position relative to the front or vibrating plate. The back plate is thus fastened at both edge and middle, which prevents it from vibrating, while the front plate is only fast at its edge, leaving the middle free to vibrate. Each of these plates, A B, Fig. 3, is in metallic connection with the induction coil so as to be its terminals. When thus connected and one makes and breaks connection in the primary circuit a click may be heard by one holding the receiver near to the ear. If a Helmholtz interrupter be employed to make and break the primary circuit the pitch of the fork can easily be heard, and with a Reiss transmitter or other suitable one in the same place any kind of a sound will be reproduced.

The explanation of this is easily understood from the foregoing description of the conditions present. The electromotive force generated by induction in the coil changes the two terminals in the receiver, one positively, the other nega-

tively; they therefore attract each other.

One of them is free to move, while the other is rigid. The middle of the freer plate consequently moves slightly toward the other whenever they are electrified, and in so doing spends the energy of the electricity, while its elasticity brings it back to its place. It is not essential, however, that both of these terminal plates should be connected to the induction coil, for if only one is connected the recurring charges will cause the free plate to vibrate, for a charged body will attract any other body, so if the connection be to the back plate it will attract the front one and make it move, and if the connection be to the front plate it will attract the back plate and approach it. The effect will be increased by putting the finger upon the terminal that is free; not because it makes a ground, as it is termed in electrical science, or completes an electrical circuit, for if the individual listening be as perfectly insulated as glass or hard rubber can make him, the sound is as loud as if he stood on the ground; but the individual becomes electrified by induction, it is the same as enlarging the terminal would be. Consequently receivers are made having only one wire terminal (see Fig. 9), the other plate being connected by a conductor to a metallic ring upon the knob, and this receiver is as efficient as the other.

Electricians will recognize in this structure what is technically known as the air condenser, and the mutual attraction of the two plates has been employed as a means of measuring electric potential. In this case one of the plates is suspended from one arm of a balance, while the other is fixed underneath it at a short distance. The attraction of the plates when they are electrified requires an extra weight to keep them apart, and the weight needed is the measure of the attractive force. But the plates will attract each other when glass or mica or any other non-conducting substance is placed between them in the place of the air; and one might expect that if such an air condenser would give sonorous results, other forms of condensers would do so likewise, and this is so. Indeed, whoever has charged a Leyden jar has probably noticed the sounds coming from it when it is nearly saturated. In 1863 Sir Wm. Thomson had his attention directed to the sounds produced by discharge

When the two plates of Epinus's condenser are in metallic contact no sounds whatever can be produced by it, but if they are separated by a thin film of air they will reproduce instance, the articulation is perfect and loud enough with a speech (see Fig. 6, at E). In the first case the electricity passes from one plate to the other without doing work or changing its form; while in the latter, its form is changed and work is done, and between the best conductors, such as silver and copper and the perfect non-conductor air, there are all degrees of conductibility, and whenever electricity spends its energy upon an imperfect conductor it results in heating it; that is, in molecular and atomic vibrations. Consequently an undulatory current from an ordinary transmitter, when sent through an imperfect conductor, will set up sound vibrations in it which may be appreciated by the

higher potential than the other; that is to say, one terminal ear. Let, then, any poor conductor, like a disk of carbon, is positive, the other negative; and if a wire connects these a sheet of paper or of gelatine, or such chemical substances terminals a current will flow through it from the positive to as ammonium chloride, be placed between the terminal the negative terminal. If a galvanometer be connected to plates, and an undulatory current sent through them will result in sound, and speech may be reproduced.

Now, the phenomena observed in Geissler's tubes and Crookes' tubes show that the residual gaseous molecules are violently impelled from the electrified terminals, not simply because they are electrified, but because they are heated, for the same phenomena are witnessed when the terminals are heated in other ways; so it is probable that between the plates of the air condenser there is an actual impulsion of the air particles from one to the other, and that the phenomenon of attraction is not isolated from molecular impact, Receivers have been made in which a vacuum could be produced between the plates, but no great difference could be observed in their performance; and when one reflects upon the immense number of molecules left in the best vacuum yet produced, it is not a matter for much surprise.

When a non-conductor, such as air, or vulcanite, or mica, separates the two plates, there is a complete transformation of the electricity at the limiting surfaces, and with small condensers the efficiency depends upon the electromotive force employed. For low electromotive forces, such as common batteries of a few cells can give, the effect is almost inappreciable, and for this reason such a receiver as this is quite free from the disturbance known as induction, and which is so troublesome in the magneto-telephone, such induced currents being generally of low electromotive force.

Among the earliest of my experiments, made while developing this method, was to attach one terminal wire from an induction coil to the outer coating of a Leyden jar, taking the other wire from the coil in one hand, and applying one ear to the knob of the jar. Every word spoken at the transmitter was distinctly heard, but the prickly sensation due to the electricity was too disagreeable. Another receiver, not less curious than the Leyden jar, was found in the pair of insulating handles made for the medical application of electricity (Fig. 8). When these were connected to the coil wires, and one held in each hand by the wooden part, while the metallic ends were placed at the ears, any kind of a sound at the transmitter was heard without any difficulty, but of course the same sensation was felt as with the jar. Many forms of condensers have been employed with capacities too small to measure up to two micro-farads, and these in all sorts of relations, charging the plates from batteries, from Holtz machines, charging the line as in cable works, etc., all of which give results that differ only in degree.

THE TRANSMITTER.

As with other systems in common use, there is a transmitter as well as a receiver. One form of the transmitter is shown in Fig. 10, it being attached to the door of a box containing battery and coil. This transmitter is substantially the same as the one invented by Reiss in 1861. His consisted of a cubical box (see Fig. 6) about five inches on a side, having an opening on one side to talk into, and another one on top, across which the diaphragm was fastened. A pin of platinum was glued to the middle of the membrane and connected by a wire to a binding screw. shaped wire with platinum point touched upon the platinum of the membrane, and with its binding screw served to complete a galvanic circuit. This one (see Fig. 10) differs from this of Reiss only in making the chamber smaller, making the connecting wire on top I-shaped, and substituting carbon or other suitable substance for the platinum; but the platinum does very well. It is a matter of some surprise that the old transmitter is still spoken of as a make and break circuit, and that it can only transmit pitch, whereas, whether it breaks or not when a sound is made in it depends solely upon the intensity of that sound, just as with the Blake transmitter. If one talks gently to the original Reiss transmitter, it not only does not break, but it transmits speech with all its qualities.

Accompanying the transmitter an induction coil is shown at I, Fig. 6, and as the working of the receiver depends upon electromotive force and not upon current, it is necessary, if a coil be used to raise the electromotive force, to have one with many more turns than is needed with the magneto receiver, and the best results have been obtained with a coil having a resistance of four or five thousand ohms, but it is probable that this will be reduced.

On account of the high electromotive force a better insulation is needed than ordinary telegraph lines give when the induction coil is at the further end of the line, but if it is at the receiving end, and a low electromotive force is employed in the primary, then ordinary insulation will answer. Again, the electromotive force being high, inserted resistances do not so markedly decrease the efficiency of the instrument, as in the case with the magneto-telephone. resistance of fifty thousand ohms, a resistance equal to five thousand miles of common telegraph wire, and it may be heard through a resistance of a million ohms, practically an infinite resistance.

If one of the terminals of a receiver be charged in any way, the reaction between the two plates will be stronger than it will be without. Let, then, one terminal be attached to a knob of a Holtz machine that is kept charged by rotation. The sounds will be heard much louder, and any other source of electricity with high potential will answer the same purpose. Hence a battery of a large number of cells may be substituted for the Holtz machine, and one of the terminals of the battery may go to the ground, though

^{*} See papers on Ricctro Statics and Magnetism, page 236.

ill

d

this is not essential. This arrangement will keep the terminal the gas from the room. The mouse experimented upon is plate charged to the potential due to the chemical relations in the line wire it will keep both ends of the line charged. A Volta's pile may be substituted for the battery in either place, and so may a charged condenser of any capacity, the electrically charged terminals in this system acting in a way analogous to the permanent magnets in the magnetic system.

There are various other ways of employing condensers, and as one would infer from the preceding descriptions of the phenomena, these condensers will talk, that is, they will reproduce in sound the varying electrical conditions to which they may be subjected, as will also either a battery or a Volta's pile.

I have often heard them talk, and have made many experiments with such receivers.

Several other diagrams are also added, showing some of the various ways in which the system may be employed.

In perfecting this new telephone Professor Dolbear has given long and constant study to the scientific problems involved, while the mechanical construction has been prosecuted by Mr. H. C. Buck, aided by skilled machinists and competent assistants. The above concise description in the inventor's own words will give our readers a clear understanding of the principles that underlie his interesting invention, and it only remain for us to describe in brief the several figures in our front page engraving. Fig. 1 shows the telephone in actual use, the transmitter being secured Fig. 1 shows the companies in action and, the transmitter companies source to the wall, the battery and induction coil being placed in a box on the floor, or in a convenient closet. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the new noor, or in a state view of the same, with a portion of the casing broken away to show the connection of the two binding posts, A B, with the diaphragms, C D, and the adjusting screws by which the distant tween the diaphragms is regulated are shown in the sectional view

Fig. 5 flustrates the principle of electrical attraction upon which the action of the new receiver is based; the electrostatic charge received by the plate, E, from the induction coil attracts the pith ball suspended in front of the plate.

Fig. 6 shows the two plates, E, of an Epinus condenser, placed near together and connected with the terminals of the secondary wire of the induction coil, I, and used as a telephone receiver.

Fig. 7 shows an induction coil with a separable primary for illustrating the principles of electrical induction.

Fig. 8 illustrates the manner of securing telephonic communication through ordinary medical electrodes.

Fig. 9 illustrates the essential features of the new telephonic system. I being the induction coil whose primary is in circuit with the battery, B, and transmitter, T, the receivers, R, are each connected with a single

and transmitter, T. the receivers, R, are each connected with a single terminal of the secondary wire of the coil, I.

Figure 10 shows Professor Dolbear's experimental telephone transmitter. In this instrument the diaphragm, A, is horizontal, and carries a carrier to the connected to the connected by an arm with a delicately pivoted bar supported by the diaphragm cell. The local circuit is from the battery, B, through the carbon electrodes, and through the primary of the induction coil, I.

Fig. 11 shows the exhibit prepared for the Paris Electrical Exhibition.

Fig. 11 shows the exhibit prepared for the Paris Electrical Exhibition. and intended to represent the perfected telephone system. It shows two similar instruments, which in practice are placed at opposite ends of the telephone line. T is the transmitter, B the battery, I the induction coil, R the receiver, and G the ground. δ is a key for cutting out the receiver when it is desired to talk, d e are the primary wires, f the secondary wire leading to the key, h the line connection of the receiver, and i is the wire leading to the key, A the line conn ground connection of the receiver.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

Mr. Herman W. Vitt, of Union, Mo., has patented an improved device for communicating motion from the spindle to the stone, the construction being such as to allow the runner to run true, though the spindle may be out of tram

Mr. Charles O. Dougherty, of Crisfield, Md., has patented an improved windlass for oyster dredges, by which, in case of accident or when it is desired to allow the dredge line to pay out rapidly, the machinery may be quickly thrown out of gear, and the spool on which the dredge line is wound be allowed to revolve freely on the shaft.

A new and improved machine for rolling axles, rivets, bolts, and other articles, has been patented by Mr. John H. Whitney, of New York city. The metal is fed into the machine through a suitable guide consisting of a loose flanged short tube held between two or more rollers or adjustable slides, the metal being held between the rollers by a pair of automatic tongs, which close as the work progres

An improvement in hoisting apparatus has been patented by Mr. John George Speidel, of Reading, Pa. The object of this invention is to provide for lifting variable loads, to insure safety, and to compass those objects by an apparatus of a portable nature. The invention consists in a block provided with differential gearing of novel arrangement, in safety-stop devices and automatic brake mechanism, acting by weight of load.

Mr. Charles K. Hamilton, of Lebanon, Ohio, has patented an improved air pump so constructed that it can be readily changed from exhaust pumps to condensing pumps.

How to Detect Carbonic Oxide in the Smallest Quantities

One of the important sanitary problems is to detect in the air of our dwellings very small admixtures of carbonic oxide. The following test, furnished by Vogel, has long been regarded as the most simple and unfailing: To a flask of water exposed to the air under examination add blood very much diluted. Carbonic acid is shown by the immediate reddening of the mixture. The addition of ammonia sulphide does not banish the absorption lines in the spectroscope as with ordinary diluted blood. This test will show the presence of a portion as small as 0.25 of 1 per cent. Experiments show, however, that the oxide may not all be absorbed in this man-

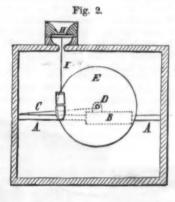
then drowned, and blood from the region of the heart is and number of cells in the battery. If the battery be placed tested with fresh, colorless ammonia sulphide. In this way 0.08 of 1 per cent can be easily detected, and strong symptoms of poisoning are shown with as little as 0.05 of 1 per cent of the gas. Since carbonic oxide is not, like carbonic acid, an unavoidable ingredient of the atmosphere, it becomes a matter of great importance to determine and prevent its He gets the reeled "raw silk," on which has been expended presence.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE VIBRATIONS OF THE VOICE. BY C. CUTTRIS

Reading of the experiments of Messrs. Bell and Tainter on the photophone, the idea struck me that the vibrations of the voice might be photographed. Not having the facilities to carry out the experiments, I communicated the idea, with a sketch, to my brother, Thomas Cuttriss, Leeds, who has carried it out as follows: A box, blacked inside, has a

Fig. 1.

plate, E, and shaft, D, by which the plate is rotated. C is a silk thread fastened at one end to the shelf, the other being wrapped round the shaft, D, in that way, when the shaft is turned, traversing the plate in front of the slit, F, and the movable shutter, G. The shutter is connected to the diaphragm, H, by the wire, I, and is opened and closed



by the vibrations of the diaphragm. A powerful light is focused upon the slit (sunlight was used in our experiments), and the plate rotated as steadily as possible while speaking upon the diaphragm.

The plate, on being developed, showed a spiral, across which were dark lines showing on the outer circles the vibrations of the diaphragm very distinctly (see Fig. 8); but owing to the much slower speed of the plate, as it drew



nearer the center, the vibrations there merged into a dense fog, and were lost.

The vibrations are similar to the indents on the tinfoil of Edison's phonograph. We are now trying to reproduce the words by the action of light transmitted through the negative upon a gelatine film, using that in like manner to the tinfoil in the phonograph. The plate used was an ordinary wet negative.

SILK CULTURE IN AMERICA.

A prominent silk manufacturer remarked to the writer: Were I to go into silk raising I would send my cocoons to France or Italy to be reeled."

The president of the Silk Association of America, at one of their meetings, when a Mr. Lowery, of Huntsville, Ala., addressed them on the subject of silk raising, asking aid and information, said he understood the difficulty of silk raising in this country commenced with the reeling; or, in other words, commenced after it was raised. This is the whole subject in a nutshell. We can raise silk in any quantity, but reeling is manufacturing requiring machinery and skill. Dr. Walter Hempel uses the lungs of living mice to gather cocoon, even and fine as required for our best organzin for an important industry at that place.

warps. Our manufacturers now get the benefit of the labor of foreign factories duty free by calling this "raw silk." Let it be ever so slightly twisted and it is called thrown, and must pay a duty of thirty-five per cent. Our throwster is protected from the foreign throwster by a duty of thirty-five per cent; or a silk worth six dollars, two dollars and ten cents is added, making it cost eight dollars and ten cents. three dollars in labor, for five dollars, the whole work of throwing into organzin, "the most costly of all threads," costs only one dollar and twenty-five cents, making seven dollars and twenty-five cents, against eight dollars and ten cents, to import, so creating a monopoly, for this price covers every expense-factory, machinery, and labor.

It is plain to see that unless the reeling from the cocoon in this country receives like protection with the spinning it can never be done here, and that simply means and explains why one manufacturer says he would, if he raised cocoons, send shelf, A, on which slides the saddle, B, which carries the them to France or Italy to be reeled, and what may be understood by the observation of the president of the Silk Association of America—" the difficulty of silk raising in this country commenced with the reeling." Now, if this is a difficulty in the way of the throwster, then the throwster is a difficulty in the way of the weaver, and the weaver in the way of the consumer. But the consumer says, for reasons of indirect benefit, "I consent to this tax," and the greatest benefit accrues from the largest amount of profitable employment and the greatest saving of outlay to the country. By raising our own silk we should save an immense amount in wealth and more than double the labor in the production and reeling the silk, independent of raising the cocoon. The money value of reeling is three dollars per pound, against the average work on all threads "after reeling" not to exceed one dollar.

I present these facts for consideration. We now permit the throwster to do three-fourths of his legitimate work in foreign factories, bring it here to the exclusion of the most artistic and valuable branch of the silk manufacture, and certainly what would be one of our most valuable and interesting products.

No one who understands doubts our ability to raise silk. Our silkworms' eggs are now exported to improve the stock of older countries, where we have been taught to look for excellence. Then why do we not reel it? The strength, luster, and evenness of American silk are excelled by none, and it is far superior to many brands now imported.

LEWIS LEIGH.

New Haven, Ct.

Insectivorous Plants in Florida.

To the Editor of the Scientific American :

In your issue of May 28, Mr. Peter Henderson has a short article entitled "Insectivorous Plants," in which he demonstrates by experiment that the "Carolina fly-trap" (Diones muscicipula) and the "cruel plant" (Physianthus albeus) are not truly insectivorous, i. e., do not depend upon insectivorous food for their nourishment and growth.

Now, in Florida we have several so-called insectivorous plants, which, for the past three or four years, I have examined and watched very carefully, and have arrived at precisely the same conclusion in regard to them as Mr. Henderson and Professor Tait have in regard to the above, viz., "that the so; called feeding of the plants in no way conduced to their health or vigor, being identical in all respects with those that had not received insects."

Among those the largest and most important is the "spotted pitcher plant" (Sarracenia variolaris), found growing abundantly along the edges of our swamps.

From this plant I have taken at different times hundreds of insects, alive or in a more or less state of decay, among which were numerous species of ants, centipedes, bugs (Hempitora), beetles (Coleoptera), etc

The inside of this "natural insect trap" is covered with fine, bristle-like hairs, which seem to be sensitive to touch, and woe to the unlucky insect that enters therein; for these hairs entwining it with a "siren's" embrace, the insect, after a few ineffectual attempts to reach the opening at the top of the leaf and thus escape, becomes exhausted, and at last, overpowered by the fumes and gases of the decaying, putrefying mass below, dies, drops to the bottom, and in a few hours becomes part and parcel of the same, and possibly an accomplice for the destruction of some near relative.

Attracted by this putrefying mass a flesh-fly (Sarcophaga sarracenia, Riley) drops an egg into it, and the larva which hatches therefrom takes up its abode, finding plenty to feast upon in the decaying insects.

When ready to pupate this larva invariably descends into the ground, either through the side of the leaf or the stem of the plant, changes into a puparium, and transforms within it or ten days into the perfect fly.

Many of these plants do not contain this putrefying mass of dead insects, and I can see no difference between them and the others in growth or appearance, and I have since accepted many statements in regard to insectivorous plants, to use a Latin phrase, oum grano salis.

WM. H. ASHMEAD.

Jacksonville, Fla, May, 1881.

SHOOTING FINBACK WHALES,-Twenty finback whales were shot with bomb lances off Provincetown, Mass., May It is worth three dollars per pound to reel silk from the 14. The business of hunting these whales has lately become

ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

Mr. Charles H. Kuhne, of Butler, Pa., has patented ar apparatus for regulating the supply of water to steam boilers, by which the water is prevented from falling too low and rising too high in the boiler, thereby avoiding the danger and damage incurred by an excess or scarcity of water. The invention consists in a chamber connected with the boiler, and containing a float that moves a steam cock, combined with a feed water chamber, and a steam cylinder containing a piston, connected with the valve in the water chamber in such manner that the rise and fall of the float permits or cuts off the flow of water to the boiler as re-

Mr. Horace Harding, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., has patented an automatic lock that is adapted for use not only upon canals, but also upon rivers, where wide gates are required for pass ing tows, rafts, and large vessels, and where, in case of submergence from freshets, it is desirable that there shall be no levers or other lock fixtures exposed above the walls to damage from drift or floating ice.

Mr. Charles W. Rich, of Whitehall, N. Y., has patented a vibrating propeller. The object of this invention is to facilitate the application of steam power to canal boats and other vessels, and to adapt the propelling apparatus for use in deep water and in shallow water.

An improvement in gas engines has been patented by Mr. Charles J. B. Gaume, of Brooklyn, N. Y. The object of this invention is to simplify the construction of gas engines, and to utilize the power produced by the explosion of the mixture of gas and air to greater advantage.

In the ordinary process of tanning leather the hides are thrown into the vats that contain the tanning liquor, and as the stronger and sour liquor in the vat settles to the bottom the hides have frequently to be handled and moved about, that they may all of them, and all parts of them, be equally exposed to the action of the liquor. Mr. Charles Flohr, of Canisteo, N. Y., has patented a combined tan vat and stirrer, the object of which is to avoid the labor and cost of this customary handling of the hides, and to agitate the liquor and expose the hide to the action thereof in such a manner that the tanning process shall be more speedy and the hides more evenly tanned.

IMPROVED WIND MOTOR.

We give an engraving of an improved wind motor, lately patented by Manuel de la Torre, of the City of Mexico. Mexico. It consists of a wheel provided with curved vanes closed on two opposite sides and opened on two intervening smooth and easy to handle, and prevents rattling. sides, so that the wind entering the wheel at one side escapes at the other side. The frame is revolved or adjusted to the wind by two vanes fixed on its top, one of which is adjustable and may be moved to regulate the supply of wind to the wheel.

The supporting frame of the device consists of a base, upright post, and horizontal cross pieces, which unite above the center of the base. The vertical shaft turns in a step at the bottom, and is journaled at its upper end in the cross pieces of the main frame.

The turbine wheel is composed of two similar disks secured to the shaft at a suitable distance apart to receive between them four curved vanes. The inner edge of each of these vanes is fixed on a point about half way between the center and circumference of the two disks, and its outer edge reaches to the circumference of the disks. The cylindrical hood, closed on opposite sides by curved quadrantal plates, is supported on a vertical pivot, that is fixed centrally in a step on top of the cross pieces or timbers of the main frame, and it is also supported by means of anti-friction rolls, which run on an annular track attached to the under surface of the top of the cylindrical frame. On the top of the cylindrical hood there are two horizontal vanes, one of which is fixed and the other stationary, while the latter is laterally movable through a quarter of a circle. These vanes, under the influence of the wind, control the movement or adjustment of the cylindrical hood, turning the frame so that the wind is admitted at one side of the wheel and escapes at the opposite side in a greater or lesser degree, according to the pressure or force of the

cylindrical hood is held perpendicularly and revolves easily on anti-friction rolls fixed on the top of its cross pieces of the main frame, and projecting up against a circular track under the top of the cylindrical frame. Rolls that project laterally from the lower part of the uprights against a ring on the drical frame tom support it against lateral pressure. This motor is compact and effective, and is not so liable to damage from storms as windmills of the usual pattern. M. De la Torre, the inventor and patentee, is for the present at the Con tinental Hotel, Broadway and 21st street, New York city.

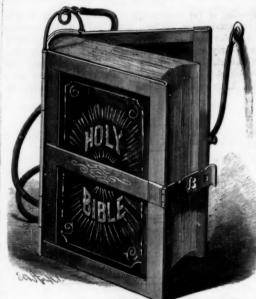
Growth of Timber.

As the result of observation, and from the testimony of reliable men, the following is about the average growth in twelve years of the leading desirable varieties to timber, when planted in belts or groves and cultivated : White maple, one foot in diameter and 30 feet high; ash, leaf maple or box elder, one foot in diameter and 20 feet high; white starch.

willow, one and a half feet in diameter and 50 feet high; yellow willow, one and a half feet in diameter and 35 feet high; Lombardy poplar, 10 inches in diameter and 40 feet high; blue and white ash, 10 inches in diameter and 25 feet high; black walnut and butternut, 10 inches in diameter and 20 feet high.

NEW BOOK PROTECTOR.

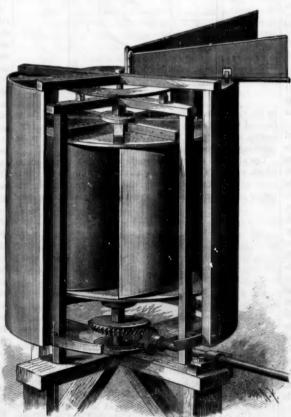
The device shown in the engraving is designed for the protection of books that are continually subjected to wear, and also to prevent valuable books from becoming lost, by



BRUMM'S BOOK PROTECTOR

attaching the protector by a chain to a desk, pew, or other permanent object.

The case or frame inclosing the cover of the book is made of sheet metal, and attached to a curved sheet metal back The edge strips of the frame are folded over by hinges. the edges of the book cover, and are provided with a clasp in front. A short wire loop attached to the back receives the chain by which the book is secured. This chain is rotating on a vertical axis in a cylindrical hood, which is covered with leather or other flexible material to render it



The light open frame inclosing the book does not add to the lathe centers, and then fall out of the way to permit materially to the weight of the book, while it protects it from wear and injury.

This device was lately patented by Mr. George W. Brumm, of Boise City, Idaho Ter.

IMPROVED STARCH POLISH. - Spermaceti. 1 part; gum arabic, 1 part; borax, 1 part; glycerine, 21/2 parts; water, 211/2 parts; and a sufficient quantity of perfumed alcohol to produce an emulsion. About three teaspoonfuls of this emulsion are required for about one-quarter of a pound of

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

Mr. Howard Newlin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has patented a machine for treating street refuse or sweepings, or for the separation therefrom of materials having value. chine is also adapted for use in separating garbage and ashes, coal and coal dust, and the cleaning and separation of coffee, rice, and other grains. It consists in a combination of endless traveling belts, screens, blowers, and washing tanks, forming the complete machine, whereby the material is separated and washed, and further separated by specific gravity, if required; also, in separating screens and water tanks of novel construction.

An improved fish-plate for use on railroads, whereby the ends of the rails will be securely held and the transverse strain upon the holding bolts entirely avoided, has been patented by Mr. George H. Waring, of Indiantown, New Brunswick, Canada. The invention consists of a fish-plate having around its bolt holes projecting thimbles or bosses, whose length is equal to half the thickness of a rail web, so that when two plates are applied to opposite sides of a rail the thimbles entering the corresponding holes in the web will meet in the center.

Mr. Isaac W. Norcross, of Red River Iron Works, Ky., has patented an improvement in lumber booms designed to catch and retain logs that are drifted down by the current of the river. The improvement embodies a drift sheer, which is in the nature of a series of logs converging toward each other, to gather the timber and the commingled drift, ice, debris, etc., combined with a shore section having a series of side gaps and a trail boom floating nearly parallel with the shore section, which holds the logs and drift as they pass from the drift sheer close to the side gap; where they are assorted from the drifts and safely placed inside the shore section, which is divided into a series of pockets by shore fastenings with outriggers, so as to avoid the cumulative strain of the whole lot of timber by distributing the timber in lots in the several pockets, and thus avoiding the breaking of the boom and loss of logs, which is liable to occur when the cumulative strain of a great number of logs is brought to bear against the boom.

An improved toe weight, to be attached to horses' hoofs, which is so constructed to fit any style of horseshoe and does not injure the hoof, has been patented by Mr. Charles Drew, of St. Louis, Mo. The invention consists of a weight provided with a longitudinal threaded perforation which receives a threaded pin that is clamped to the horseshoe by means of clips catching in opposite edges of the shoe and held together by a screw.

An improvement in snap hooks has been patented by Mr. Edward Davidson, of West Dedham, Mass. The invention consists in making a snap hook with the loop on the same side as the hook, folding the end of the strap within it and securing said strap by a screw.

An improved fruit drier has been patented by Mr. George S. Grier, of Milford, Del. The invention relates to improvements upon the fruit drier patented by the same inventor, October 28, 1879, in which a vertical series of trays were used, each of which was supported upon pawls attached to four vertically sliding posts, and the whole raised or lowered and sustained one above the other, while heated air passes up through the open bottom of the same.

Mr. Martin A. Howell, Jr., of Chicago, Ill., has patented an improved wire stretcher for either plain or barbed wire, whereby one person with an ordinary lever or wooden handspike is enabled to draw to its proper position any barbed or plain wire, all injury and danger of breakage from kinks, short bends, curls, or abrasions of the wire being avoided.

Mr. Frank W. Mix, of Terryville, Conn., has patented an indicator padlock, in which a change is made in the indicator wheel, and a different set of symbols, figures, or letters made to show through openings in the case, for the purpose of enabling the proper authorities to detect any surreptitious opening of the lock.

Heretofore the machines for making felted yarns have been constructed with a taut cloth or linen sheet, upon which the yarns were felted, but it was impossible to give this sheet the desired tension. The operation was very inconvenient and the yarns were stretched, thereby separating the filaments, which is just the reverse of that which is to be obtained by felting the yarns. Mr. Louis Bourau, of Paris, France, has patented a yarn-felting machine which is simple in construction, will felt the yarns without tension, and complete the felting in a single operation.

An automatic device for centering the blocks from which bobbins and quills are formed, has been patented by Mr. Jerome B. Fellows, of Fryeburg, Me. The invention consists of forked block supporting posts actuated by suitable mechanism to present the block

the turning of the block.

An improved gauge for bracelets has been patented by Mr. Willis H. Howes, of New York city, The object of this invention is to readily ascertain the exact size and form of bracelet required to fit any particular wrist. The invention consists in a gauge for bracelets that can be readily contracted and expanded to fit a wrist, and thus give the exact form and size of bracelet required to fit the wrist.

Mr. Anthony St. Mary, of Decatur, Ill., has patented a trap intended to facilitate catching hogs and other animals and holding them while being ringed or marked.

The House Wren as an Insect Bestroyer.

The observations I have been able to make during a residence of several years on a farm, have convinced me that the common house wren is really one of our most valuable birds, not, perhaps, for what they have done, but from the possibilities wrapped up in their diminutive bodies. They are quite as social as the purple martin or blue bird, and greatly surpass both of these in the rapidity with which they increase. I began several years ago to provide them with resting places in the vicinity of my buildings. Sometimes I fastened the skull of a horse or ox, or a small box, in a tree top. But latterly I have made it a practice every spring to obtain thirty or forty eigar boxes for this purpose. If the box is long and large, I put a partition across the middle and make a hole through into each apartment. It is very seldom that these boxes are not occupied by one of these little amilies. In most instances two broods are annually reared in each nesting place. One of my boxes last season turned out three broods of young wrens-six little hungry birds each time, or eighteen in all! I think a cigar box never before did better duty. The lamented Robert Kennicott stated that a single pair of wrens carried to their young about a thousand insects in a single day! Like all young, rapidly growing birds, they are known to be most voracious eaters, living entirely upon insects. The point upon which most stress may be laid is this: That by providing them with nesting places, in our gardens, orchards, or grounds, and not allowing them to be caught by cats or scared away by mischievous boys, we may have scores if not hundreds of them about during most of the time in which insects are destructive. They undoubtedly return to the same localities to rear their young year after year. Last season I had up about thirty of these nesting boxes, and all but two or three, which were not favorably located, were occupied. My crop of wrens could scarcely have been less than one hundred and fifty, and the old birds filled the air with music when they were not on duty in building their nests or feeding their young. The coming spring I intend to put up at least a hundred of these nesting boxes in my orchards and groves, and I have no doubt I shall be repaid a hundred thousand fold for the little labor it costs. As long as they come back so regularly every year and in constantly increasing numbers, and serve me so well, I shall do all in my power to protect and encourage them. And I am of the opinion that when one species of social, useful birds can be made to congregate in such unusual numbers, others will come also. But the hardiness, sociability, love of the locality where it was reared, and wonderful fecundity of the little house wren, render it, in my judgment, one of the most valuable of all our insectivorous birds .- Charles Aldrich, in the American Naturalist.

THE LUMP FISH.

head. The two dorsal fins are so much enveloped in a tuberculous skin as to appear like a hump on the back. Body deep and rough, with bony tubercles.

The shape of the lump fish is suborbicular in outline, compressed towards the dorsal ridge. The body of the fish is soft and flaccid, resembling a lump of jelly. Instead of scales, the body is covered with minute bony tubercles. From the anterior portion of the dorsal ridge, the outline slopes in a concave line to the orbits, where it becomes abruptly declivous to the snout. The space between the orbital ridges, flat. On the top or ridge of the back is a series of large compressed tubercles, and a smaller row on the anterior slope. Other series of tubercles are distri-buted over the body. The eyes are promi-The nostrils double, mouth moderately large and broad, the under jaw slightly longest, small blunt teeth, in three or four rows, in front of each jaw; teeth also on the pharyngeals, and a small patch on the base of the tongue, which appeared to be distinct from the pharyngeals.

The dorsal hump, without any vestige of rays, ventrals immediately under the pecto-rals united into a disk, with a funnelshaped cavity in the middle; the margins softly dentated. The skin of the lump fish is very thick, the stomach enormously large, intestines very long. No air bladder.

The range of the lump fish is from the polar regions to Cape Hatteras. A spinous variety inhabits the coast of Greenland and the Bay of Fundy. On the Long Island coast the lump fish is called the indigo bag, from the fact of its being of an indigo blue in color. On the Scotch coast it is called the cock-paddle and hen paddle. In England it is known as the lump sucker and sea owl. On the French coast licorne de mer, where it is considered a great delicacy, and is known as a valuable market fish.

The little jelly fishes shown in the illustration as floating near the surface of the water, are known as sarsia, while its hydroid is called

a wide circular opening, through which passes the long proboscis, hanging from the under surface of the disk to a conof an immense length when compared to the size of the

AMPHORA OF BRONZE AND WHITE METAL.

We give an engraving of a fine amphora of French manufacture, classical in design and highly wrought. The body



AMPHORA OF BRONZE AND WHITE METAL.

is of bronze, and the medallions and a portion of the ornaments are composed of white metal, giving a rich and striking contrast. It is mostly handwork, and is a truly artistic piece of metal work.

Recent Facts about Smallpox.

An interesting illustration of the value of revaccination is afforded by a report just furnished, at the instance of the Local Government Board of London, by the chief medical Family Cyclopteridæ, a small family, characterized by the officer of the General Post Office. This report relates to an ventrals being united into a disk or cup-shaped form. Body average number of 10,504 persons permanently employed in

coryne. The sarsia is about the size of a small walnut, with quired to undergo revaccination on admission to the service, unless that operation had been performed within seven years previously. Among these persons during the ten siderable distance below its margin. The four tentacles are years 1870-1879 there has not been a single fatal case of smallpox, and in only ten instances have there been nonfatal attacks, all of which were of a very slight character. In the telegraph department, where the enforcement of revaccination has not been carried out with quite the same completeness, twelve cases have occurred in the same period among a staff averaging 1,458 in number. Eight of these attacks were of persons who had not been revaccinated, and one proved fatal. The remaining four were of revaccinated persons, who all perfectly recovered without pitting. This experience, like that of the nurses at the smallpox hospitals, seems to show that revaccinated persons enjoy absolute immunity from severe attacks of smallpox, and that their risk of catching that disease at all, even in its most modified form, is infinitesimal.

Heath's Discoveries in South America.

PROP. JOHN D. PARKER, KANSAS CITY, MC

Since the death of Prof. Orton in South America, his sistant, Dr. Ivon D. Heath, and his brother, Dr. E. R. Heath, have both taken a deep interest in completing the unfinished work of that expedition. Prof. Orton had formed the purpose of conducting his expedition through the unexplored portion of the Beni River, over which there has always hung such an uncertainty and superstitious fear. But just before he reached this portion of his journey, the soldiers, whom he had hired and paid in advance for his whole expedition, intimidated by superstitious fear, suddenly presented their bayonets at the breast of Prof. Orton, refused to go any further, and returned home. Prof. Orton was, therefore, compelled to abandon his expedition, and returned almost heart-broken to die of weariness and disappointment on the legendary lake of Titicaca.

About three years ago, Dr. E. R. Heath returned to South America to complete, if possible, Prof. Orton's work, and explore this unknown region, the terra incognita of South It was hoped that some geographical society would aid in this important work, but while plans were being laid to secure material assistance, Dr. E. R. Heath undertook and solved the problem himself.

On December 28, 1880, Dr. Heath, of Wyandotte, Kaneas, received a letter hastily written by his brother, dated Reyes, Bolivia, on the river Benl, Aug. 8, 1880, on the day of his embarkation for the rubber camps and the unknown country further below. He wrote that he was just setting out to explore this unknown region, and that three months would tell the tale of his success or defeat.

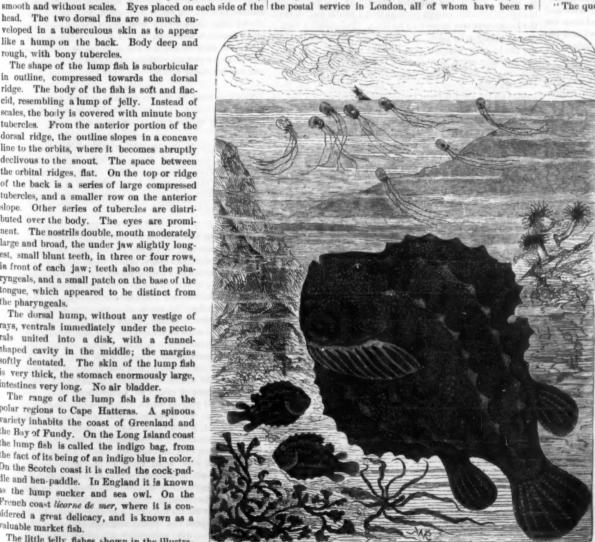
On March 19, Dr. Ivon D. Heath received another letter from his brother in South America, announcing that his expedition had proved a complete success. The following extract will be interesting from this letter, which is dated Reyes, Bolivia, Dec. 20, 1880:

"The question of the Beni is solved. This work of Prof.

Orton is fluished. I made the trip from Cabinas (rubber camps on the Madidi) in a canoe with two Indians. I left Cabinas September 27, and, after delays from sickness of my men, at 8 A. M., October 8, discovered a new river entering from the south, and at mid-day of the 8th arrived at the junction of the Madre de Dios with the Benl. No other white man has ever seen the mouth of this magnificent river. Crude measurements gave 785 feet for the width of the Beni, and 2,350 for that of the Madre de Dios. Took careful observations for latitude and longitude. At 6:50 A.M. of the 9th I passed the mouth of a river the size of the Yacuma, entering from the north, to which I gave the name Orton.

"At night we slept on a sand bar joined to large island. On the 10th we passed this island, and at 8 A.M. another large one, and at 10 A.M. came to a line of rocks obstructing the river and making rapids. One mile further down we came to the main fall, which exhibits a perpendicular descent of the entire river of thirty feet. We occupied the remainder of the 10th in drawing our little craft over the rocks to the waters below. With much risk we passed the waves below the falls and camped. On the morning of October 11 we passed some rocks in the river corresponding to the rapids of the Palo Grande of the river Mamoré, but which, here, offer no serious obstructions to navigation. At 10 A.M., October 11, 1880, we arrived at the mouth of the Beni-that is, at the junction of the Beni and Mamoré rivers. From thence we ascended the Mamoré, 800 miles, to Exaltacion and Santa Ana, and from Santa Ana to this place, 200 miles west over the pampas; brought my boat on an ox cart.

"Here I am safe and sound, with a map of the three rivers-Beni, Mamoré, and Yacuma. From the river Madidi to the mouth of the Beni there are but four families of Pacavara Indians in the place of 'multitudes of man-eating savages,' as every man, woman, and child in Bolivia has believed during many scores of years. Rubber gatherers are already



THE LUMP FISH, -(Oyclopterus lumpus.)

taking advantage of my exploration, and have established camps further down the Beni."

On account of superstitious fear of the unexplored portion of the river Beni, the productions of the rubber camps on the river Madidi have ascended the river Beni, 200 miles to Reyes, thence east 200 miles to river Mamoré, thence 300 miles north to its union with the Beni-700 miles around, in place of less than 300 miles direct. The waters of the Beni come down from the gold mines of Bolivia and through forests of cir.chona trees; and the Madre de Dios from a much larger area of similar territory of Peru.

Dr. Heath, alone, unaided, spent two years in patient, determined preparation near the scene of the proposed exploration, and then, in a frail canoe, with only two Indian servants, with certain death before them, as all Bolivia believed, paddled bravely forth to explore a great river and extensive country where, during 350 years, a score of costly expeditions have disastrously failed. It is thought that the governments of Peru and Bolivia will give official recognition of his daring and successful achievement. His work will develop and change the commerce of many hundred miles of mountain and plain. Rubber and bark will now descend the Beni, instead of going 600 or 700 miles around. What risk and danger he faced in descending an absolutely unknown river, larger than the Mississippi, in which were rapids and falls! What satisfaction he must have felt when his canoe entered the yellow waters of the Mamoré, having successfully braved the superstition of ages and opened up a new country to commerce!

Dr. Heath has achieved a noble work in exploring this unknown region, which will be recognized everywhere, and as long as the Orton river flows, men will remember the explorer whose name it bears, who contributed so much to our knowledge of South America, and gave up his life to the cause of science.-Kansas Review.

Making Cushions.

The following is given in answer to a number of questions asked us by a correspondent on the method of making cushions, and may be of benefit to others of the craft.

Lay off the bottom in blocks, but in doing this, consider the flare of seat, so as to have the side and back blocks somewhere near the size of the middle ones. When this is done and the facings are shaped out, lay the facings to the bottom, and draw the bottom lines across them, and when the bottom is sewed to the facing, these lines must come together. You must cut your facings a little smaller than the bottom, and cut the bottom a little larger than the seat board. This will prevent you from drawing the bottom when sewing to facing. Next, make a frame out of five-eighth inch poplar, one and a half inch wide, and have the frame a little larger than the cushion top. Draw unbleached muslin over the frame, and paste another piece over this. When dry, draw a red line for the front part of the cushion; lay the bottom within onequarter inch of the line. Mark at each tuft line, and whatever the flare is, allow three-eighths inch on the sides and back. When this is done, take the bottom off and draw the tuft lines on the frame. Take small bench awl and put through the tuft marks and draw across over the hole on the other side. This will show you where the tufts are to go.

Next lay the cloth off; there are several ways of doing this, but we will speak of two only. Lay cloth on bench with nap toward you, give each block five-eighths inch fullness lengthwise and one-half inch crosswise. Allow plenty of stuff around the edges, say one and one-quarter inch, punch a small hole for the tuft, and crease with a hot iron on the wrong side along the chalk lines. If the cloth is heavy, it will not require lining, but paste a small muslin stay under the tuft. Lay a layer of thick wadding over the cloth, put a little paste on each tuft, but none on the edges.

Next lay hair on the frame, a thin layer at a time, and do not press it, but let it lie loose, about four or five inches high. Lay the cloth over this, and tack with needle and thread at each tuft line. When this is done, take cushion needle and thread and tuft the cloth down, making each one single, and drawing down close to the muslin on the frame. Now take small round awl or tufting needle and work the blocks in shape. It is not necessary to be particular with this part, nor have them stuffed too full. Do this when the bottom is stuffed.

Sew down the edges with a back stitch, and draw the cloth tight; that is, do not have too much fullness, or the top, after it has been sewed to the facing, will look bad around the edges. Sew close to the lines on the frame, and wherever there is a weak place, push a little hair under it. Paste the muslin over the cord, and when dry trim off to suit one and one eighth inch cover, basting the cord to bottom of facing and the fall to this, and then sew the bottom in

Now turn and beat the corners out, also along the front. Turn it again and baste cord to top of facing. Be particular to have the pap of cord cover to run the same as the cloth on the front. Cut the top from frame, allowing one-quarter inch, and tack it with thread to the tuft line at the corners. If there is too much fullness at the corners, you must work it out. Leave the mouth open from the corner tuft line at the back, turn the cushion and cord at the corners, and also along the back; tack out, and fill the front corners with cotton; then sew the mouth up to within twelve inches.

Stuff the bottom up firm, being careful to keep the stuffing to the front, and when you think the bottom is well filled, feel along the front, and if the stuffing has worked away, run the stick along and work it to the front. When this is right tack the mouth to the cord with thread at the

the front row, and then sew the mouth up. Leaving the mouth open until the tufts are in keeps the strain from the cloth, and you have a chance to fill in more hair if necessary.

We will now give another way of cushion tops. Work the bottom, facings, and cord the same as the way explained above, and the frame also, as the difference is only in laying off the cloth, a less quantity of hair being laid on the frame. Take the cloth and spread it out on the bench with the face side up, the nap toward you. The bottom is laid off for tufts; lay this on the cloth, with one of the lines on the crease in cloth, allowing one inch fullness on the front. The French chalk and mark at each line from the bottom. Allow the same fullness around the edges as in the former. Take the bottom off, and draw the lines on the cloth. Thread and shuttle bobbin with "C" or "D" silk (Singer), using the same on top; fold the cloth to the chalk line, the long ones first, and stitch close to the edge. After the three long lines have been stitched, do the cross lines in the same way. Do not have the silk break in between the tufts; if there is a knot in the silk rip out the tuft. After stitching, flatten down at the tufts. Now work up this top the same as the one explained above.

This makes a pretty top, but if you do not wish to stitch it, take one sixteenth inch fullness from between tufts, and leave the top plain; but in each case work the top the same. If you stitch the cushion top, do not back the same; if you pleat the top, pleat the back the same. -Carriage Monthly.

Seventy Miles an Hour.

The Philadelphia Record of May 12, gives the following ccount of a run from Philadelphia to Jersey City by a Pennsylvania train drawn by locomotive No. 10.

The train from Washington was fifteen minutes behind time in reaching the West Philadelphia depot, where the big, new locomotive adoringly named by rail-roaders "longlegged 10," was snorting under an enormous steam pressure. The Washington section was soon added to the other cars and a string of seven cars started out of the depot on a gentle roll. As the last car swung around the Zoological Garden the speed had increased to twenty miles an hour, and as the wheels turned to cross the northern end of the city the mile posts commenced to pass at the rate of one in two minutes. When Frankford was reached the trees and fence posts seemed to skip back with increased speed, and the register showed forty-five miles an hour. Then the engineer, patting his pet on the throttle let loose his hold and the big thing started out to make up for lost time. Schenck's Station was passed at the rate of sixty-five miles an hour, but so easy was the riding that none of the 400 passengers knew they were shooting over the ground at the pace of more than one hundred feet a second. As Bristol was sighted the train slowed up with a series of jerks, and passed the station at what seemed to the passengers to be a lazy swing, but which was, in fact, a speed of forty-five miles an hour. For a few minutes there was no perceptible change in the rate, except perhaps that a gentle pull showed the locomotive was improving its time. Tullytown whizzed past at a sixty mile pace. All this while the traveling was up grade. As Trenton was sighted the mile-posts came along in fifty-seven seconds; the bridge over the Delaware was crossed, and Trenton was entered at the rate of forty miles an hour. Four of the lost fifteen minutes had been gained on the stretch from Philadelphia, and after a stop of two and a half minutes to take in passengers the big thing moved off again across the country. It was now a difficult task to pass from mile post to post in less than eighty seconds. After the third mile had been reached the time between posts fell to seventy seconds. Lawrence was passed at a sixty mile gait, and Princeton Junction followed at the same pace. Then the speed increased to sixty-five miles an hour until Monmouth Junction was reached. Here the big engine was slowed down to fifty-five miles while taking up water from a track tank; then twelve miles were gone over in twelve minutes. Down grades now helped to accelerate the impetus of the huge mass, and the mile posts before reaching New Brunswick flew by in fifty-five seconds. At New Brunswick quite a crowd was gathered at the depot to see the monster engine whizz through the city at the rate of forty miles an hour. Menlo Park danced by with a sunlight flash from the row of glass globes covering the electric lamps that line the track, and within the next five minutes the speed of the train increased on a straightaway dash to seventy miles an hour. Rahway, Newark, and the Meadows were skimmed over, and the immense train dashed into the depot on time, having covered eighty nine miles in ninety-five minutes, being an average of fifty-six and a quar ter miles per hour for the entire distance, stops inclusive.

Iridium.

Last week we gave a brief notice of the new process of moulding iridium. The following additional particulars we May 10, 1881:

Iridium is rarely found pure, and only in dust and very small grains or scales. By reason of its non-fusibility by the ordinary processes it is practically useless, except for pointing gold pens, and as found there is but a small proportion of it large enough to be used with advantage for even this purpose. I have also used it in its natural state, and, as usually found, alloyed with osmium (iridosmium, which is pens, and have experienced much difficulty in obtaining rible poisons known in chemistry.

tuft lines, and draw the tufts in regular, commencing with grains or scales large enough for this purpose, and many of these were imperfect, having cracks or fissures in them that rendered them worthless for drilled fountain pen points. The pieces as obtained are also of irregular shape. A large portion of the metal must, therefore, be wasted, as the dust which results from grinding the grains to the proper shape was of little use.

> By my present invention I am enabled to fuse the dust as found in its natural state, whether pure or combined with other metals, into a molten mass, and mould the metal into ingots of any desired shape or size. I accomplish this result by the following process: The metal (preferably the dust, which, being of little use in the arts, is comparatively inexpensive) is put into a sand crucible and subjected to a high heat in an ordinary furnace. When it has attained a high temperature I add to the metal about one-fourth its weight of phosphorus. After the addition of the phosphorus the metal quickly fuses, when it may be poured into moulds of any shape or size. I find it best to have the moulds highly heated, as the metal chills and sets quickly. So soon as the metal is set I place it in a crucible with chalk or lime, return it into the furnace, and again subject it to a high heat. This eliminates the phosphorus, leaving the metal pure, hard, and non-fusible, as in its natural state.

I prepare the metal for my fountain pen points by casting it upon a flat metal plate, the surface of which is crossed by fine ribs, resembling lattice or net work. I pour the molten metal on this plate, filling the interstices between, and covering the ribs. The metal is thus cast in a thin sheet or plate having one of its faces grooved the reverse of the ribs upon the mould. Through these grooves the plate is broken into small cubes the proper size to be drilled and formed into fountain pen points. The same plan may be adopted with advantage in preparing journal bearings for watches to be used in place of the jewels now commonly

For pointing my gold pens I mould the metal into the form of wire or small rods. These I break into pieces of a size to make strong substantial nibs. The metal may also be cut by using a copper wheel or disk and diamond dust.

As the metal is exceedingly hard, non-fusible, practically non-corrosive, and capable of receiving a high polish, it will now be seen that I have discovered a mode of working it. supplying a great need long felt in many branches of the

The metal is made much tougher by eliminating the phosphorus, but it may be used for many purposes without so doing.

Agricultural Notes SUNFLOWERS,

One of the best products in a small way is the sunflower. They occupy but little room, and are to most persons ornamental. They may be sown at any time after the 10th of May. The mammoth Russian is the largest and most productive variety. A single flower will produce a large quantity of seed. Although it well repays care it may be grown along fences, where other plants are not easily cultivated. Leave one stalk on a hill. The seeds are excellent for stock as well as for poultry, the leaves may be fed green to cattle, and the dry stalks will serve to light the kitchen fire.

RADISHES

Radishes must be grown quickly or they will be tough, stringy, and bitter. If forced by a daily sprinkling of liquid manure they will be very brittle and tender.

STRAWBERRIES.

"S. R." says in the New York Herald: Set the plants in rows three and a half feet apart, with eighteen inches between the plants. Do not let them get too thick, but it is better to let them mat than to trim them. It is better not to pick the Wilson strawberry too soon. It will hang for several days after turning red.

The Utilization of Worn Out Horses.

The utilization of horses not fit to eat and too old to be of working service, in France, is said to be as follows:

It is first shorn of its hair, which serves to stuff cushions and saddles; then it is slaughtered and skinned; the hoofs serve to make combs. Next the carcass is placed in a cylinder and cooked by steam at a pressure of three atmospheres; a cock is opened, which allows the steam to be run off; then the remains are cut up, the leg bones are sold to make knife handles, etc., and the coarser, the ribs, the bead, etc., are converted into animal black and glue. The first are calcined in cylinders, and the vapors when condensed form the chief source of carbonate of ammonia, which conan animal oil yielded which makes a capital insecticide and a vermifuge. To make glue the bones are dissolved in Mr. John Holland, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for fusing and muriatic acid, which takes away the phosphate of lime; the soft residue retaining the shape of the bone is dissolved in take from the specification of the patent therefor, granted boiling water, cast into squares, and dried on nets. The phosphate of lime, acted upon by sulphuric acid and calcined with carbon, produces phosphorus for lucifer matches. The remaining flesh is distilled to obtain the carbonate of ammonia; the resulting mass is pounded up with potash, then mixed with old nails and iron of every description; the whole is calcined and yields magnificent yellow crystalsprussiate of potash, with which tissues are dyed a Prussian blue, and iron transferred into steel; it also forms the basis much softer than pure iridium), for pointing my fountain of cyanide of potassium and prussic acid, the two most terny of

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NEW INVENTIONS.

An improvement in wood pulp machines for preparing half-stuff of all kinds of pulp wood, whether wet or dry, has been patented by Mr. Andrew Kreider, of Annville, Pa. It consists in a stationary frame having a series of reversible double cutting rasp or file plates arranged at intervals on a plane, and a sliding frame moving thereon, provided with similar plates, and a central chamber for holding the block of wood, which is held down by a lever-regulated weight.

A trace buckle, which is easily operated with little strain upon the leather, and furnishes protection to the wearing part of the trace from the weather, has been patented by Mr. Oscar W. Moon, of Daytonville, Iowa. This invention consists in a metallic casing having a tongue pivoted in one of its open ends and a central transverse slot in its inner side for receiving a loop attached to the hame tug.

An improvement in that class of parasols which are designed to be suspended from the top, in contradistinction to being supported upon a subjacent handle, has been patented by Mr. James T. Smith, of New York city. The particular type of parasol or umbrella upon which this invention is an improvement is that in which the ribs are closed by the upward travel of the runner instead of its downward movement, as usual. This invention consists in the peculiar construction and form of the notch, to which the runner and braces converge. It is short, flat, and circular or ringshaped, having a hole at the top through which the rod or staff projects. This notch has a recessed lower side to receive the upper end of the runner and its attachments when the umbrella or parasol is closed.

An improvement in annunciators has been patented by Mr. David Rousseau, of New York city. This invention relates more especially to electrical annunciators for use as call signals in hotels or other places to announce the location or nature of the call, and also for burglar or other alarms, to indicate the window, door, or room at which the circuit has been closed. The leading feature of this invention may be briefly stated to consist in a double-faced name plate or tag, having its two faces at right angles to each other, or nearly so, and arranged to circumscribe or inclose two sides of the magnet, and pivoted at the bisection of the angle on an axis passing preferably through, or partly through, the body of the magnet.

Mr. Levi McNall, of Allegany, N. Y., has patented an improvement in the class of wooden fences which are selfsupporting without the aid of posts set in the earth, and whose independent panels are connected so as to adapt them to be readily detached one from the other. The improvements pertain to the construction and arrangement of the posts in connection with the rails of the fence.

An improved button and the method of ornamenting the same, has been patented by Mr. Charles L. Woodbridge, of Brooklyn, N. Y. The object of this invention is to produce in buttons of pearl, bone, or other suitable material, in a comparatively inexpensive manner, the effects or appear ance of inlaid or inserted work or figures. The invention consists in cutting the pattern, figure, or design entirely through the button blank, in then securing on the back of the blank, with some suitable adhesive substance, a piece of metal foil, gilt, silvered, or otherwise colored paper, etc., that shall be seen through the open pattern or design, and in then applying over the back of the button, hard and smooth, a coating of collodion, celluloid, asphalt, varnish, cement, or other suitable material.

An improved fastening for gloves, which permits of fastening thick and heavy gloves very conveniently, has been patented by Mr. S. Oscar Parker, of Littleton, N. H. The invention consists in a short bar or lever with heads or that is attached by an eyelet to the glove opposite the butthe button hole, and the bar then turned to rest transversely

Mr. John W. Maltby, of Rochester, N. Y., has patented are so riveted that they will not draw apart nor split, and the irons so applied that they will not come on the inside of the hoop. The laps are secured by diagonally bent binding irons riveted to the sides and periphery of the hoop.

Messrs. Joseph Lepine, Fils, and Pierre H. Roelants, or Brussels, Belgium, have patented an apparatus for holding skins and hides, whereby the application of coloring matter in ornamenting the skins is greatly facilitated. The invention consists of a table, having a cylindrical shape, on which the skin to be colored and ornamented is placed, and each side of the table is provided with a rotary shaft, a series of wires extending from one shaft to the other over press all the wires simultaneously upon the surface of the

An improved step for passenger coaches has been patented by Mr. Sylvester J. Tucker, of Richmond, Va. This invention relates to an improved additional adjustable step to lessen the distance between the ground and the front step of railway passenger coaches, it being designed principally for the convenience of women, children, and aged and infirm persons, who experience great inconvenience and even danger in mounting the higher steps now in use,

An improvement in slide valves has been patented by Mr. made by the exhaust steam of engines, which has heretofore volumes of cold air to rush into the fire space.

been attempted by the use of muffles and similar devices. This is accomplished by the valve in the steam chest, which streams as it leaves the cylinders, thus controlling each exhaust separately instead of the combined exhaust, securing freedom from dirt and other matters liable to clog the device, and further obtaining a steady continuous draught in through the engine. the smokestack instead of a series of explosions, as hereto-

The Telegraph in Arctic Exploration.

It is suggested by Mr. James Gamble, General Superintendent Western Union Telegraph Company at San Francisco, that profitable use might be made of the electric telegraph in Arctic exploration.

His plan would be to use light steel wire-say number 20 gauge-weighing about twenty pounds to the mile. The wire, coiled on reels, could be hauled on sledges, either by men or dogs, over the snow or ice, paying it out as the advance exploring party went along. By this means the party would keep in constant communication with their base of supplies. They would have no cause for uneasiness about getting lost or beyond the means of rescue, as they would be able at any moment to call for aid. With this feeling of the certainty of relief'in case of accident, they would not hesitate to push their explorations to a distance far beyond what would be considered safe in the absence of means of telegraphic communication with the main body. And should any accident happen to the advance party of explorers, or should they require a further quantity of supplies, the line of wire would serve to guide those going to the rescue straight to the spot where the explorers were camped. It would also serve as a guide for their return, materially lessening the chances of danger to life and loss of the party. Having established a base of supplies at some central point, there would be nothing to prevent several exploring parties being sent out at the same time in different directions, they reporting each night to the central station the progress and observations made during the day. Directed in this way the practicability of one route over another could, from the telegraphic reports sent in, be determined upon, and much time that would otherwise be wasted in vain endeavors to make way over barriers of ice, be saved. As hard frozen ground, dry snow, or ice is a perfect insulator, no poles to string the wire would be required. It could be paid out on the snow or ice by the party as they went along. The generally accepted theory of those familiar with the Arctic regions is that the ice is seldom more than five or six feet in thickness, so that by boring through it with a common drill or through the frozen ground, there would be no difficulty in obtaining a good ground connection to complete the electric current. It would not be necessary to carry any battery material. One main battery at the central station would be all that is required. For a distance of 100 to 150 miles telephones could be used, dispensing with practical telegraph operators. Still, it might be advisable to have some of the party possessed of a practical knowledge of telegraphy.

At 20 pounds to the mile, 100 miles of wire would only weigh 2,000 pounds. It could be wound on reels in size easy to handle. The cost of steel wire of that gauge is about 20 cents a pound, so that the total expense, including cost of reels, winding, etc., would not exceed \$1,000.

Wastefulness in the Use of Steam.

As scientific investigation has established the fact that the best forms of modern steam engines develop only a fraction of the power which should be obtained from the combustion knobs, mounted so as to slide in a swiveled head or button of the fuel consumed in the boiler, it will be instructive to ascertain the nature of these losses, in order if possible to ton hole, the bar and head or button being passed through apply a remedy. In tracing out the causes of the loss of power in the steam engine, the first and greatest element doubtless resides in the difficulty-we may be justified, perhaps, in saying the impossibility-of burning solid fuel an improved truss hoop for coopers' use, the laps of which economically in any form of furnace that has yet been devised, and for the following reasons:

The buyer of coal purchases, at the outset, at least ten to fifteen per cent of non-combustible and useless material in the form of ash, which should of course be deducted from the weight of the fuel to get at the quantity of available combustible. Starting with this quantity, probably not less than five per cent of useful combustible is lost by falling through the grate bars in the form of dust or partially burned fragments that find their way into the ash pit

Again, in no form of furnace that has yet been devised, has it been found possible to retain the gaseous products of available heat; on the contrary, they are thrown out chimney frequently at a temperature as high as 900°.

Again, combustion is frequently so imperfect, that great quantities of unconsumed carbon are carried off out at the chimneys, with the furnace gases, in the form of smoke, unutilized, and representing a sad waste of heating power.

Another item of loss is found in the cold air with which the furnace is fed, and which must be highly heated before the fuel, and which must necessarily abstract this heat from the glowing coals through which it passes; and this item of object of this invention is to reduce or prevent the noise the furnace doors are frequently opened, permitting great

Again, we must take into consideration a variable and often considerable percentage of loss of heating effect due is constructed to wire-draw the steam or break it up into fine to the radiation and conduction of heat from the generator to surrounding bodies.

And finally, we must take into consideration the loss involved in the passage of steam from the boiler to and

Summing up all the items of loss in the steam generator, it is probable that with the best boiler which it has been possible to construct, not more than fifty per cent of the thermal effect of the fuel is utilized in the generation of steam, and of this fifty per cent from fifteen to thirty per cent is lost somewhere during the passage of the steam from the boiler to and through the engine, by condensation in steam pipes, friction of the moving parts of the engine, and so forth, leaving us but twenty-five to thirty per cent of the duty actually realized, that theory demands we should

It seems somewhat absurd in the face of these facts to see and hear statements to the effect that the possibilities of improvement in the duty of the steam engine have been exhausted. Our inventors need not puzzle their brains concerning new motors so long as they have a margin of seventy-five per cent before them for improving the steam engine .- The Milling World.

A Gigantic Corn Sugar Factory.

The Chicago Sugar Refining Company are building a factory to convert 25,000 bushels of corn into sugar a day, or something like 8,000,000 bushels a year. The buildings cover 320,000 square feet, and are expected to cost \$1,500,000. The sugar house is 160 feet square, with eleven stories and basement, or 140 feet high. It is to be of wood and brick, containing 4,000,000 bricks. It will be supported by 90 piers of masonry, resting on piles, each pier carrying about 400 tons. There will be required 42,000 forty-foot piles, or 318 miles of piling.

Adjoining the sugar house is a building for corn, 60 by 160 feet, and three stories high. It contains five large steam engines, two pumping engines, one flowing engine, and several small steam pumps. The pumps have a capacity of 10,000,000 gallons per day. The steam engines will be equal to 2,000 horse power, and the blowing engine blower furnishes a blast for 7,000 horse power boilers.

Next to the corn house is the filter house, 120 by 100 feet, and eleven stories high. This building is a fireproof one, built of brick, iron columns, wrought iron floor beams, with brick arch floors. Its twenty-four piers carry 500 tons each, or 12,000 tons. There are 2,500 forty-foot piles driven 50 feet below the surface.

The next building is a corn house, 60 feet square and three stories high, with machinery in it to empty the cars auto-

The next is a boiler house, 75 by 150 feet in size, three stories and basement, with a coal bin suspended above the boilers to feed them automatically with coal. The boilers have a capacity of 7,000 horse power. There are twenty of these known as the Babcock & Wilcox section boilers.

The chimney for the house is 240 feet high, with a 12 foot inside flue. The base is 40 feet square.

Between the boiler house and the chimney is an "economizer," that the waste gases of the boilers pass through on the way to the chimney. By this means the heat is utilized by pumping the feed waters of the boiler through this econo-

The works will commence with 12,000 bushels of corn per day, which will soon increase to 25,000 per day. The corn can be received by car or vessel, and the goods likewise

The company will manufacture all kinds of starch for laundry and culinary purposes, sirup, and grape sugar.

The Treatment of Constipation by the Swedish Movement Cure.

In order the more readily to convey a definite idea of the principles on which the Swedish movement cure is based. and the mode in which these principles should be carried into practical execution for the relief of chronic constipation. Dr. Benjamin Lee, at a recent meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, stated that, in addition to the movements which afforded the introduction of oxygen in the blood, the rapid rotation of the entire trunk upon the pelvis promoted activity in the portal circulation and stimulated peristaltic action of the intestines; that, in order to relieve congestion of the liver and excite a healthy flow of bile, the the surface of the table, the two shafts being operated, by combustion generated in the furnace long enough in conmeans of a central lever, in such a manner as to draw or tact with the steam generating surfaces to yield up all their cles of the right side strongly on the stretch, while the opeproduced a rapid vibration of the parietes of the chest and abdomen immediately over the liver. Finally, the patient assuming a recumbent posture, thorough kneading of the abdomen is given, followed by pressure and vibration over the solar plexus. The circulation of all the abdominal viscera is thus stimulated, the passage of both chyle and faces through the alimentary canal is aided, healthy secretion is promoted, undue accumulations of mucus are disit will begin to combine with the combustible elements of lodged, and the great nervous centers of the organic system are roused into the highest state of activity. There are very few cases of constipation, however obstinate, which will re-William S. Hughes, of Long Island City, N. Y. The main loss is often a serious one where there is careless stoking and sist a fortnight of this treatment daily, and many cases will yield in a week. The manipulation occupies about one hour .- Medical and Surgical Reporter.

Business and Personal.

The Charge for Insertion under this head is One Dollar a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line. Advertisements must be received at publication office as early as Thursday morning to appear in next issue.

Mfrs "Excelsior" Machy, address E.D. Payne, Dayton, O Four applications of German Corn Remover cure the worst corns without pain or annoyance. 25 cts. Druggists. Blake's Patent Belt Studs. The strongest fastening for leather and rubber belts. Greene, Tweed & Co.

It must be good, as bank presidents indorse it. Vhat? Van Beil's "Rye and Rock."

Makers of best Factory Elevators (power) and Auto-matic Guards, send description and cost to Carr, Ryder & Wheeler, Dubuque, Iowa.

Spring freshets and rain will fill our boiler with sediment and scale, causing foaming and burning. These can be prevented by Hotchkiss' Mechanical Bollet Send for circular. \$4 John St., New York.

To realize a portion of the profits of the enorm crop of apples annually produced in the U. S., it is only necessary to purchase one of Boomer & Boschert's The price is reasonable. Send for illustrated circular to New York Office, 15 Park Row.

Mr. T. P. Pemberton, who is well known to us and many of our readers and advertisers, will sail for Eng-land in the early part of July next. As he will visit ster, Leeds, and London, any party may wish to transact business, or obtain inform who may wish to transact cusiness, or obtain informa-tion in reference to anything in the manufacturing or mechanical line, will do well to communicate with him. Mr. Pemberton is a native of England, and has had good experience as an educated engineer, draughtsman, and writer for mechanical journals. His address is 5 Dey St., room 13, New York.

A beautiful fit may be secured in boots or shoes without discomfort by using German Corn Remover. Walrus Leather, Wairus Wheels, Pure Turkey & Grey, Star Glue for Folishers. Greene, Tweed & Co., N. Y.

For Sign Lettering Device, address J. J. Callow, 56 ech St., Cleveland, O.

Wanted.—Plater's Outfit, 2d-hand, including lathes, tanks, etc. Address "Baldwin," P. O. Box 2182, N. Y. Robinson Machine Works, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., build indiplace in market patented artic

Combination Roll and Rubber Co., 27 Barclay St., Wringer Rolls and Moulded Goods Specia Houghton's Boiler Compound contains nothing that can injure the iron, but it will remove scale and prevent its formation. Houghton & Co., 15 fludson St., N. Y.

Tarred Roofing and Sheathing Felts. A. Wiskeman,

Portable Railway Track and Cars. Contractors, Plant rs, Miners, send for circulars. Francis W. Corey & Co., & 7 Dey St., New York; 59 & 61 Lake St., Chicago., Ill. Punching Presses & Shears for Metal-workers, Power

Drill Presses, \$25 upward. Power & Foot Lathes. Low Prices. Peerless Punch & Shear Co., 115 S. Liberty St., N.Y. Improved Skinner Portable Engines. Erie, Pa.

"Rival" Steam Pumps for Hot or Cold Water; \$32 and upward. The John H. McGowan Co., Cincini The Eureka Mower cuts a six foot swath easier than

a side out mower cuts four feet, and leaves the cut grastanding light and loose, curing in half the time. Se for circular. Euroka Mower Company, Towanda, Pa.

The Newell Universal Mill Co., Office 34 Cortlandt St. New York, are manufacturers of the Newell Universal Grinder for crushing ores and grinding phosphates, bone, plaster, dyewoods, and all gummy and sticky substances Circulars and prices forwarded upon requ-

Pure Oak Leather Belting. C. W. Arny & Son, Maaufacturers. Philadelphia. Corre Presses & Dies. Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J. Wood-Working Machinery of Improved Design and Workmanship. Cordesman, Egan & Co., Cincin Experts in Patent Causes and Mechanical Counsel.

nin & Bro., 50 Astor House, New York Split Polleys at low prices, and of same strength and appearance as Whole Pulleys. Yocom & Son's Shafting Works. Drinker St., Philadelphia, Ps.

Malleable and Gray Iron Castings, all descriptions, by Eric Maileable Iron Company, limited. Eric, l'a.

National Steel Tube Cleaner for boiler tubes. Adjustable, durable. Chaimers-Spence Co., 10 Cortlandt St., N.Y. Corrugated Wrought Iron for Tires on Traction Engines, etc. Sole mfrs., H. Lloyd, Son & Co., Pittsb'g, Pa. Pest Oak Tanned Leather Beiting. Wm F. Fore-paugh, Jr., & Bros., 561 Jefferson St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Stave, Barrel. Keg. and Hogshead Machinery a specialty, by E. & B. Holmes Suffajo, N. Y.

Wright's Patent Steam Engine, with automatic cut of. The best engine made. For prices, address William Wright, Manufacturer, Newburgh, N. Y.

Nickel Plating. - sole manufacturers cast nickel anodes, pure nickel salts, importers Vienna lime, crocus, etc. Hanson & Van Winkle, Newark, N. J., and 12 and 91 Liberty St., New York.

Presses, Dies. Tools for working Sheet Metals, etc. Fruit and other (an Tools. E. W. Bliss. Brooklyn, N. Y. Blake " Lion and Eagle " Imp'd Crusher. See p. 350. Gardiner's Pat. Beit Clamp. See illns. adv., p. 349. For best Duplex Injector, see Jenks' adv., p. 849 C. B. Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., Wood Working

See adv., page 540. hinery of every kind. Eclipse Fan Blower and Exhauster. See adv., p. 348.

4 to 40 H P. Steam Engines. See adv. p. 340. Peck's Patent Drop Prezs. See adv., page 366.

Long & Alistatter Co.'s Power Punch. See adv., p. 365. For Mill Macb'y & Mill Furnishing, see illus. adv. p.364. Saw Mill Machinery. Stearns Mfg. Co. See p. 364. Sannders' Pipe Cutting Threading Mach. See p. 366. For Sequeira Water Meter, see adv. on page 364. For Machinists' Tools, see Whitcomb's adv., p. 364.

The American Electric Co., Propris Mfrs of Thompson Housten System of Electric Lighting the Arc Ty See Bentel, Margedant & Co.'s adv., page 381. Clark Rubber Wheels adv. See page 380.

The Twin Rotary Pump. See adv., p. 350. nond Drills, J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N. Y.

ers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks, and Tub Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 34 Columbia St., New York. 50,000 Sawyers wanted. Your full address for Emer son's Hand Book of Saws (free). Over 100 illustrations and pages of valuable information. How to straighten saws, etc. Emerson, Smith & Co., Beaver Falls, Pa.

Telegraph, Telephone, Elec. Light Supplies. See p. 380 For Pat, Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling. see Frisbie's ad. p. 381.

Tight and Slack Barrel machinery a specialty. John reenwood & Co., Rochester, N. Y. See illus. adv. p.381. Elevators, Freight and Passenger, Shafting, Pulleys and Hangers. L. S. Graves & Son, Rochester, N. Y.

For the manufacture of metallic shells, cups, ferrules, blanks, and any and all kinds of small press and stamped work in copper, brass, sinc, fron. or tin, address C. J. God-frey & Son, Union City, Conn. The manufacture of small wares, notions, and novelties in the above line, a spe-cialty. See advertisement on page 381.

Gear Wheels for Models (list free); Experimental Work, etc. D. Gilbert & Son, 212 Chester St., Phila., Pa Gould & Eberhardt's Machinists' Tools. See adv., p. 381. Safety Boilers. See Harrison Boiler Works adv., p. 381. The Medart Pat. Wrought Rim Pulley. See adv., p. 381. For Heavy Punches, etc., see illustrated advertise nent of Hilles & Jones, on page 381.

Steam Engines; Eclipse Safety Sectional Boiler. Lambertville Iron Works, Lambertville, N. J. See ad. p. 381. Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p.381. Lathes, Planers, Drills, with modern improvements The Pratt & Whitney Co., Hartford, Conn.

For best low price Planer and Matcher, as improved Sash, Door, and Blin 1 Macbinery, Send for catalogue to Rowley & Hermance, Williamsport, Pa.

Rollstone Mac. Co.'s Wood Working Mach'y ad. p. 380.

The only economical and practical Gas Engine in the market is the new "Otto" Silent, built by Schleicher. Schumm & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Send for circuiar.

Ore Breaker, Crusher, and Pulverizer. Smaller size un by horse power. See p.381. Totten & Co., Pittsburg.



HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No attention will be paid to com manied with the full name and address of the

Names and addresses of correspondents will not be ven to inquirers.

We renew our request that correspondents, in referring to former answers or articles, will be kind enough to ne the date of the paper and the page, or the nu of the question.

Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. If not then pub-lished, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them.

Persons desiring special information which is purely

of a personal character, and not of general interest, should remit from \$1 to \$5, according to the subject, as we cannot be expected to spend time and labor to obtain such information without remuneration

Any numbers of the SCIENTIPIC AMERICAN SUPPLE-MENT referred to in these columns may be had at this office. Price 10 cents each.

(1) L. H. asks for a good method of waterroofing cloth. A. Saturate the fabric with a strong hot aqueous solution of soap, press out excess, and transfer to a second bath consisting of a strong aque-ous solution of sulphate or acetate of alumina or acetate of lead, for several hours. Repeat if necessary, pressout excess of liquid, and dry, not too rapidly, in the air.

(2) J. M. asks for a reliable receipt for violin varnish. A. Coarsely powdered copal and glass, each 4 oz.; alcohol, 64 o. p., 1 pint; camphor, 34 oz.; heat the mixture, with frequent stirring in the water bath so that the bubbles may be counted as they rise, until solution is complete, and when cold decant the clear portion. When oil varnish is used it is made as for artists' virgin copal.

(8) E R. J. asks how to make a large number of copies of manuscript in black ink. A. Try the following: Use the gelatine pad made with a large pro-Soak writing paper in alum water to dry carefully. Write with any link on portion of glue. uration and dry carefully. the prepared paper, and use as in the gelatine pad process; the parts of the gelatine surface not protected by the ink will be affected by the alum so as to leave a stencil which can be used by inking with a roller as in ctric pen process

(4) A. R. T. asks how to proceed to bleach gutta percha. A Dissolve the gutta percha in twenty times its weight of boiling benzole, add to the solution plaster of very good quality, and agitate the mixture from time to time. By reposing for two days the plas-ter is deposited and carries down with it all the impuriof the gutta percha insoluble in benzole. The clear liquid decanted is introduced by small portions at a time into twice its volume of alcohol of 90 per cent, agitating continually. During this operation the gutta percha is precipitated in the state of a pasty mass, per-fectly white. The desiccation of the gutta percha thus purified requires several weeks' exposure to the air, but may be accelerated by trituration in a m liberate moistures which it tends to retain.

(5) S. G. inquires how to remove grease spots from clothing. A. According to the Pharm fatty oils have a greater surface tension than oil of turole, or ether. Hence, if a grease spot of cloth be moistened on the reverse side with one of these solvents, the tension on the greasy side is larger, and therefore the mixture of benzule and fat or grease will tend to move towards the main grease spot. If we were to moisten the center of this spot with ben- net; if it runs rapidly it should happen a little earlier.

sole, we should not remove it, but drive the grease upon | 2. I have made one which I think ought to work, but the clean portion of the cloth. It is, therefore, nece sary to distribute the benzole first over a circle surding the grease spot, to approach the latter gradually, at the same time having blotting paper in contact with the spot to absorb the fat immediately. Another method, namely, to apply a hot iron on one side while blotting paper is applied to the other, depends upon the fact that the surface tension of a substance with a rise of temperature. If, therefore, the ce diminishes ture at different portions or sides of the cloth is different, the fat acquires a tendency to move from the hotter parts toward the cooler.

(6) E. N. B. writes: My main shaft runs 85 revolutions per minute. I want to belt on to a coun ter shaft and from there to a pulley 12 inches in diameter, which must run 800 revolutions per minute. I want to know the diameter of the pulley on the main shaft, also of those on the countershaft. What is the simplest rule you know of for figuring this? A. Your 12 inch pulley is to make 800 revolutions per minute. You can assume such diameter of the driving pulley on the countershaft as best suited for the work, say 60 inches; this will give the speed of the counter shaft one-fifth, or 160 revolutions per minute. You have now speed of the countershaft 160 revolutions per minute and the driving shaft 85 revolutions per minute; the two pulleys must have the same proportion. If we assume the countershaft pulley 30 inches diameter, we then have 85: 160::30: diameter of driving pulley—or

 $160 \times 30 = 56.5$ inches. So the driving pulley will be 56.5 inches on to 30 inches and 60 inches on countershaft, driving 12 inches.

(7) J. M. writes: 1. I have four cells, one gallon each, of Fuller's battery, as described in Scientific American Supplement, No. 187, Fig. 38, and I want to nagnetize some compass needles. Please tell me the size of magnet required to correspond with the battery.

A. Use soft iron cores, five-eighths of an inch in diameter 8 inches long, and wind with six to eight layers of No. 18 wire. 2. How is the magnetizing of compass needles done? A. By placing them against the poles of the electromagnet or by rubbing them on a permanent magnet. 3. Is my battery large enough for such work? A. Yes. 4. Is there any difference in lifting power of , both of the same size of core, of wire, and both having the same number of layers, gnet being made like the letter U, the other being made in three pieces with a yoke? A. No, providing the yoke in the latter case is well fitted to the cores. 5. Which is the best, to dissolve the bichromate of potash in warm water before putting it in the cell, or to put in the crystals? A. It is best to make a good solud pour it into the cell. 6. Is there any to mixing a solution of bichromate of potash with suiphuric acid, if mixed when the solution is warm? A. The acid should not be added until the so 7. Is it unhealthy to sleep in a room where Fuller's bat-teries are used? A. There is no special danger if the room is well ventilated; it is better, however, to not have them in the bedroom. 8. How long will carbons last in the Fuller battery? A. If they are properly prepared they should last indefinitely. 9. Will my battery work on board of a vessel at sea as well as on shore? A. Yes, providing you can keep the solutions from spilling or mixing. 10. In winding a magnet does it make any difference if I wind the core with a separate piece of and connect the inner ends after winding, or wind the two cores with one piece of wire? A. It makes no dif-ference. 11. Do compass needles lose their power in course of time? A. Not generally; they may, however,

(8) A. B. P. asks: What book will I want for instructions and what materials will I want to make assays for gold and silver, as I am going to New Mexico, and expect to mine, prospect, and assay? A. See article saying in No. 22, current volume. Rickett's "Assaying and Assay Schemes."

(9) W. McK. B. asks: 1. Which is better for cemetery purposes, American or Italian marble? A. Some of the hard (elaty) Pennsylvania stones last much onger than Italian marble. 2. Is there machinery made for washing sand to make glass? What is the cheapest and best method of screening sand for above purposes?

A. Yes. See "Glass" and "Screens," Knight's "Mechanical Dictionary."

(10) W. E. J. asks: 1. How is vulcanized ubber acted on by sulphuric, nitric, and muriatic acids? Does it lose its properties? A. The dilute acids scarcely affect hard rubber or vulcanite; the undiluted acids, especially nitric and sulphuric, attack and de-compose it. 2. Is there any metal or other substance suitable for making pens that is not destroyed by these acids? A. Gold pens are not affected by these acids (pure) when used singly.

(11) C. E. R. writes: 1. I have one pound of No 36 naked copper wire, and wish to construct as large an induction coil as the wire will permit. What of spool shall I use, and what size of primary wire! Can I construct the coil on the plan of the one described in Supplement, No. 160? A. Yes. Follow directions given in Supplement, No. 160. 2. How large a con-Follow directions denser shall I use? Also how many quart cells Grenet?

A. About 25 square feet of condenser surface and three to four cells of battery. 3 Will a two-quart cell, Grenet, containing three zinc and four carbon plates 4x6 inches, heat 1/2 inch of platinum wire, 36 size, hot enough to explode gunpowder ? A. Yes.

(19) W. C. asks: What is used to hold together the edges of paper composing writing pads ? A. It is a mixture of glue and thick starch paste with a trace of glycerine, and aniline red to color.

(13) S. H. B. asks as to the dynamo-electric chine of No. 161, Scientific American Supplement. 1. Should the change from one spring to the other of the commutator occur when the its poles within the hollows of the field magnet, or when it is at right angles to a line joining the poles of the field magnet, or in neither? A. If the machine runs slowly it should happen when the poles are at right angles to a line drawn across the poles of the field magdoes not give such results as I expected. I need, as in original direction, seven layers of No. 16 on field magnet and No. 18 in armature. I intend soon to measure the of each and also its current. Should the wire of the field magnet be wound in separate layers so as to join up in series or not as required? A. Yes. 3. I made the armature of cast iron, but propose to make one of soft wrought iron. A. You will probably get better results with wrought iron.

(14) A. W. S. asks: Can you tell me of any simple method by which I may determine whether water is hard or soft? A. Dissolve half an ounce of good white soap in a pint of hot rain water, let it cool settle, and mix about an ounce of this with a pint of the water to be tested and let it stand a few minutes. If the water is soft it will remain clear, if hard it will become opalescent. 2. Is there any way to render rain water wholesome for cooking purposes without the use of a water filter? A. Put a few bushels of coarsely granular, well burned charcoal, free from dust, into the reservoir. 8. Where can I obtain a water fliter? See column of Business and Person

(15) O. S. asks: 1. Will not a cylinder made of heavy sheet brass, three-sixteenths of an inch thick, brazed together with the two end pieces, brazed in and turned up true and the thread cut on it, do as well if left hollow as a solid iron cylinder? A. The hollow cylinder will answer quite as well, providing you apply a fly wheel to the cylinder shaft to render the motion equable. To get the best effects from the phonograph the cylinder must be turned with great regularity. 2. Has any improvements been made on the phonograph since you published the above direction, July 20, 1878 and if so, what is it? A. No essential changes. might with advantage substitute a piece of stout watch spring for the wooden spring carrying the needle, and you might put a damping spring against the front of the diaphragm with a piece of rubber or felt under it. These changes will improve the articulation a

(16) J. A. S. asks how to vulcanize rubber A. In vulcanizing rubber in contact with iron so that the vulcanized rubber and metal will cohere. it is customary to coat the iron all over with a melted mixture of equal parts of genuine asphaltum and gutta percha. Soft rubber containing six per cent of sulphur when firmly pressed into contact with this coating and then vulcanized by steam heat adheres very strongly to the metal after cooling.

(17) G. W. T. asks: Will you, for the bene fit of several readers in this city, please give your opinion of gasoline in the household as used in the o-called gas stoves ? A. Experience has shown that it is not safe to use gasoline in the house, for gas stoves or rwise, under any conditions

(18) C. A. asks: 1. Can you tell me the process of etching on glass by fluorine? A. Heat the glass and coat it with an even film of beeswax or paraf-Through this to the surface of the glass etch the cters or design with a sharp point or graver. Put into a shallow lead tray a quantity of fluoride of cal-cium (fluorspar) in fine powder, now it into a thin paste with strong oil of vitriol, and set the tray on a warm sand bath. Place the glass tightly over the tray so that the hydroffuoric acid (gas) may come into contact with the prepared surface. In ten minutes the parts of the not covered with wax or paraffine will be properly ed. The etched lines will be translucent—if it is desired to make the etching opaque (white), the plate should be wet before exposing it. A little benzole will remove the wax or paraffine. 2. Can the materials be rocured in New York? A. Yes, see our advertising columns for dealers in chemicals

(19) J. B. E. asks: What is the cost of graphite and where obtainable? A. From seven to fourteen cents a pound. See our advertising columns for addresses of dealers. Also Hints to Corresp

(20) C. F. writes: 1. On a vehicle of three wheels, weighing from 1,100 to 1,200 lb., with two cylinders 2 inches bore by 4 inches stroke, wheels to be 4 feet high, with engines connected to cranks in back axle: what size boiler is required, thickness of iron, etc.? A. The boiler should be a vertical coil tube boiler, having about 70 square feet of heating surface, 2. Is there any way to make a piece of wood more durable than seasoned lumber for chisel handles, etc.? A. Yes, by impregnating the timber with some of the chemica prepartions used for preserving timber. 3. I see in the Scientific American a description of a canal cance, in vol. xliii., No. 7. What we wish to know is how long, wide, and deep it should be to hold two persons of 160 ib. each? A. About 9 or 10 feet long by 3 feet wide by 16 inches or 18 inches deep to be safe. 4. Shot for guns used to be made by dropping it only four inches. Please describe how it was done A. Lead shot are made by dropping the melted lead through a series of perfora tions from a height into a tank of water.

(21) F. P. asks: 1. Will adding clay to quicklime mortar improve it? If so, will I use the raw clay or must it be calcined, and how much to be used? A. The addition of any considerable quantity of raw clay to lime mortar does not improve it materially. A certain quantity of fine silicious clay, when ground with lime and strongly calcined, makes hydraulic cement. See Gillmore's "Cements and Mortars." 2. How can 1 ake a good whitewash for outdoor wood work make a good waltewash for bushel; salt, 1 quart; rice, Well burned quicklime, 1/2 bushel; salt, 1 quart; rice, flour, and glue, 16 lb. each; water glass (sirupy solution), 1% pints; water, q. s. Soften the gine over night in cold water, then dissolve it in a small quantity of boil-ing water. Make the flour into a paste with a little hot water and add it to the glue solution. Dilute the water glass with boiling water and add the salt. Slake the with boiling water, then stir in the other materials with enough hot water to reduce the whole to the proconsistence for use. Stir well together, cover, and stand several hours before using. Use hot.

(22) C. L. W. writes: I am making a small Marie-Davy quicksliver battery, to be used in a medical machine, and I would like to know if well varnished wood would not answer in place of vulcanite in making the cells? A. Wood, well varnished with shellac or saturated with melted paraffine, will answer very well

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(23) M. R. G. asks how to make a water glass to enable one to see the bottom of a lake, depth from 50 to 100 feet, water clear as crystal. I notice in from no to not lost, water clear as crystal. I notice in "scribner" mention made of a water glass in use for such purposes on the eastern coast and islands, but does not state how made. A. Any small telescope with a large objective and an eyepiece of very low magnifying power will answer very well for this purpose, provided the joint of the object glass is watertight.

(24) L. D. W. asks: In throwing water through 200 feet of hose with fire engine is the pressure on first length of hose greater than of any others? If on first senger.

80, why? A. When discharging, yes; because the friction of the additional length of hose expends a portion ure in the first length.

(25) J. P. S. asks whether in dies used for cutting sheet iron blanks both dies must be tempered, or whether it will suffice to temper the female die only and let the male die be soft so it can be peaned up when dull. The sheet iron to be cut is 27 and 28. A. Both dies should be tempered.

(26) I. H. B. asks: 1. What is the best lubricant for the main journals of large engines? I use clean cotton waste with lubricant on top of it; the waste serves to catch the grit if any and mitigate the flow of hot oil. Is there anything better? A. Some of the special mineral oils are used as you describe. 2. Should cylinder cocks be left open in running when they are made to work automatically and the engine works equally well with them shut? A. No. 3. Whose work best treats of heat and power as applied to mechanical A. "Cotterill on the Steam Engine as a Heat 4. Which is the most economical in practice, a single cylinder expanding the steam down to the atmospheric line, or a compound engine of the same initial capacity-steam pressure and vacuums of each being equal and making the same number of revo-lutions per minute? A. Theoretically there should be rence, but practice favors the compound engine.

(27) J. H. A. writes: I notice that nearly all force and lift pumps have an air chamber through which the water is forced. Is the chamber any advantage except to deliver the water in a continuous stream. and perhaps make the force a little easier; and does it make the lift more effective? A. The use of an air chamber is to prevent shocks, or "water hammer," in does not make the pump more effective,

(28) F. A. B. asks: Would it be possible to carry steam 300 feet through 2½ inch pipe well covered, with 100 lb. pressure to drive engine? What lineat expansion would there be, and what loss by condensing, etc.? A. Yes; the pressure at the engine would probably be 3 lb. to 5 lb. less than at the boiler when the engine is running. Expansion 614 to 7 inches. Condensation depends upon covering, it may be from 0.08 to 0.3 lb, water per square foot of surface per hour.

(29) G. W. G. writes: I am making a Holtz electric machine, from directions in SUPPLEMENT, No. 279, with a 12-inch revolving plate. 1. On which the apertured glass are the paper inductors pasted. Also, are the gilt papers on the same side as the inductors? A. The inductors and gilt paper are on both sides of the glass. 2. Is it necessary that the spindle holding the revolving plate be perfectly insulated? A. No. 3. Can anything else but vulcanite be nesd to excite the mechine? A. Anything that will generate enough electricity will answer but vulcanite is

(30) M. S. asks: Can wrought iron anvils plated on the face with steel be retempered? If so, what is the best way to temper them? A. You can try the experiment by filling a vessel (large enough to contain the anvil) with water; place bricks or other support for the anvil, so that the top of the anvil will be about one inch below the top of the vessel; have a hogshead or tank filled with water and elevated 5 to 10 feet above, with a pipe from it so arranged as to discharge water or the face of the anvil. When the anvil is properly heated lower it into the first tank face upward, then open the pipe from the higher tank to discharge the water on the face of the anvil till it is cooled. When you open this pipe, keep away from the anvil, as if any portion of the steel is not welded, it may crack and fly off with con-

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

OPHTHALMIC OPERATIONS, WITH REMARKS ON AFTER-TREATMENT: THE OPHTHAL-MIC USE OF QUININE AND ITS THERAPEUTIC ACTION. By A. Sibley Campbell, M.D., Augusta, Ga. 8vo pamphlet, pp.

The first of these papers consists of a description of several cases of diseases of the eye which came under the author's treatment, and which form the basic of certain remarks which he subsequently makes in regard to the after-treatment in cataract extraction and other surgical operations on the eye, together with a considera-tion of the therapeutical action of quinine in such cases. Among the manifold applications of quinine in diseased conditions of the system it is found especially applicaditions of the eye, whether have resulted from disease or from surgical procedures. Nowhere in the text books on therapentics is there given or attempted a generalization of the action of this valuable remedy. In the paper before us, the author attempts to supply this wide-felt deficiency by enunciating the following views, which are essentially those published by Dr. Robert Campbell in 1858-2. The prominent and specific action of quinine is due to its direct influence on the vascular system through its power of contracting the blood vessels, acting thus on their middle or muscular coat, and hence on the unstriped, assisted, possibly, by the elastic fibers constituting that structure. This action is primarily on the blood vessels. especially on the small arteries, where muscular fiber predominates, and without the intermediary action of the vasomotor system. Possibly the vasomotor system afterwards aids in the process of contraction; but if so, only secondarily, by the same general influence now exerted, with the rest, on its own circulation. Hence the action of quinine on the vascular system is that of a control o

Such being the action of the remedy on the vascular sy tem at large, the explanation of its therapeutic influence in abnormal conditions of the eye follows as a corollar,

LATHE WORK. By Paul N. Hasluck. Lordon: Crosby, Lockwood & Co.

Amateur furners will find in this well made book a handy treatise on turning tools, appliances, and processes. The author has evidently wrought out his knowledge of the lathe at the lathe, while his experience as editors of a lower leaves the desired to the lather than ence as editor of a journal largely devoted to mechanic has taught him both the popular need of the information he gives and the art of conveying practical instruc tion directly and clearly.

ILLUSTRATED RECORD OF BRITISH PATENTS January to March 1, 1881. London Office of the Engineer.

For many years the Engineer has printed from weel to week abstracts of all the patent specifications filed in the British Patent Office. It has now with commend-able enterprise, begun to reprint periodically these specifications with illustrations, indexes, reports of paten decisions, and related matters, after the manner of the official United States Patent Gazette. There can be no question of the public utility of such a periodical, and it does not speak well for the British authorities that such a work is left to be done by private enterprise

A MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH HENRY. Published by order of Congress. Washington: Gov-ernment Printing Office.

A special edition, on tinted paper with wide margins, of the Henry memorial volume. It contains the proceedings in Congress with respect to the commemoration of Professor Henry's life and services; obsequies; memorial exercises at the capitol; memorial pro-ceedings of societies, and the proceedings in Con-gress regarding the erection upon the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution of a bronze statue of the late Secretary of the Institution.

HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE. Edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Josiyn Gage. In two vols. Vol. I. 1848—1861. New York Fowler & Wells.

The editors have aimed to put into permanent shape the scattered reports of the woman suffrage movement still to be found, and to gather an arsenal of facts and arguments for the furtherance of the movement—" the first organized protest against the injustice which has brooded over the character and destiny of one half the human race " The work is illustrated by finely engraved steelplate likenesses of Frances Wright, Ernestine L. Rose, F. D. Gage, Clarinda I. Howard Nichols, Paulina W. Davis, Lucretia Mott, Amelia Bloomer, Susan B. Anthony, M. C. Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Joslyn Gage,

THE DETECTION AND CORRECTION OF VISUAL IMPERFECTIONS WITH TEST TYPE. By Dr. C. A. Bucklin. New York: Spencer Optical Manufacturing Company. \$1.

Although specially intended for the guidance dealers in eyeglasses and similar aids to imperfect vision, this little manual may be of use to any one who wishes to inform himself as to the nature of the more common eve troubles and the character of the glasses best suited to delay, relieve, obviate, or cure such disabilities. The book is practical, clear, and reasonably free from technicalities

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A printed copy of the specification and drawing of any patent in the annexed list, also of any patent issued since 1865, will be furnished from this office for one dollar. In ordering please state the number and date of the patent desired and remit to Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, New York city. We also furnish copies of patents granted prior to 1866; but as increased cost, as the specifications not being printed, must be copied by hand.

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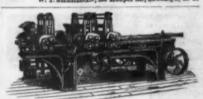
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